

unchecked transfers of small arms have serious consequences for international peace and security, development, and internal security. They impose a massive toll in human suffering.

The small arms issue is complex, cross-cutting and difficult. Small arms are widely used and legitimate weapons that are vital to the defence and security needs of states. The problem of small arms proliferation does not lend itself to a single solution or initiative. Accordingly, Canada has suggested that international action on small arms should be a multi-tracked series of efforts at the regional as well as global level. Governments and NGOs should work in partnership to counter the illicit transfer of small arms, increase responsibility and transparency in the lawful trade in these arms, and implement practical disarmament efforts in pre-conflict and post-conflict situations.

Canada supports projects related to small arms proliferation. These projects include

- A study, being conducted by the South African Institute for Security Studies, on the impact of increased availability of small arms on the culture of violence in South Africa
- The UN Lessons Learned Unit study of programs dealing with demobilization and re-integration of ex-combatants, and the unit's work on guidelines for designing and carrying out peacebuilding operations
- The NGO Web site, called the Preparatory Committee for a Campaign on Small Arms and Light Weapons

Canada will raise the issue of small arms proliferation, so the G-8 can consider ways of dealing with this urgent and growing problem.

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Despite recent progress in the prevention and treatment of many infectious diseases, a number of emerging (and re-emerging) diseases continue to pose serious health challenges, particularly for developing countries. Globally, malaria and other parasitic diseases, tuberculosis and cholera are still widespread and deadly. Moreover, some 30 new infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, have been recorded in recent years.

Increasingly there are new methods being developed to combat infectious diseases and growing international support and co-ordination to use them. For example, malaria remains one of the world's deadliest diseases, causing more deaths annually than AIDS. However, recently developed approaches, if widely used, could significantly reduce the global impact of malaria.