

are often poorly understood. Many questions are noted in this report, but four are worthy of particular attention:

- exploration of ways to monitor and regulate the trade in light weapons, and the associated phenomenon of illicit weapons transfers;
- investigation of regional and comparative measures to identify states that devote disproportionate resources to armaments or military expenditures;
- analysis of the contribution Canada could make to building United Nations capacities for post-conflict or preventive disarmament efforts;
- examination of the role of defence production in the Canadian economy (in particular its high-technology sectors), with the goal of facilitating transition and restructuring efforts.

## **Conclusion**

The problem of constraining conventional proliferation presents difficult dilemmas and complex issues to policy makers. The arms trade will remain a legitimate part of international politics, and the security concerns of states cannot be ignored or wished away. Likewise, the economic, political and technological dimensions of arms production and exports are perhaps unique in their complexity. Difficult policy trade-offs or choices must be made to balance conflicting goals or to follow a consistent foreign and domestic policy.

There are no short-term panaceas to conventional proliferation, but there are nevertheless many innovative and realistic initiatives that are explored in this report. As many of these as possible should be pursued by Canadian policy-makers, in order to address perhaps the most important issue on the current arms control and non-proliferation agenda, and to achieve greater security for states and peoples.