

peace-building by focusing on regulating the supply of firearms. We must ensure support of OAS (CICAD) initiatives on import / export and in-transit controls as well as the UN resolutions. The OAS convention is the first legally binding treaty of its kind (import-export, in-transit measures, transparency, information collection and exchange) which will have the effect of enhancing a high level of co-operation among member states of the OAS on guns. The agreement is based on the premise that countries must cooperate with each other to combat illicit trafficking, which requires that they take responsibility for what they export - it not only affects them domestically but other countries as well. There is also a P8 consensus to develop another international instrument (may or may not be legally binding). While the UN study and resolution endorsed by 33 countries (on domestic violence, information links, safe storage, licensing amnesties, registering and tracking) is also a very important indicator of an emerging consensus internationally to deal with the firearms death and injury, It is, however, essential that follow-through on these initiatives be backed up with a commitment for funding. Governments will need to be pressured to ensure that there is action and not just words on paper.

2. Adequate support for implementation, including exchanges of technical assistance to ensure equivalent capacities, is essential. Otherwise, the conventions and resolutions are merely words on paper. Participants should ensure that their respective governments follow through on their commitments.

3. Define surveillance and information gathering requirements for WHO and others.

4. WHO will help sponsor a conference in Geneva on the public health perspective on Firearms and Small arms death and injury prevention. Appropriate and substantial NGO participation is critical for information, visibility and mobilization purposes and must be facilitated with funding. (Dr. Romer, Pr. Cukier and Dr. Chapdelaine to follow up.)

5. The proposed WWW site was discussed and a number of suggestions were made. While there were some concerns about the implications of using the Internet, it was generally agreed that the information was needed urgently not only to promote research but to assist in policy development and mobilisation. The WWW site will focus on providing readily available information on firearms death and injury, regulations and other approaches to prevention with links to other sources. The site should complement and link to existing resources not duplicate them. The importance of maintaining quality and a scientific orientation was stressed and suggestions were made for the contents and structure of the information. Although seed funding has been obtained, ongoing funding is needed to support not only development and maintenance but also for data collection in under served countries. Language is also an issue and additional resources may be needed for translation. Several volunteered to provide information and serve as reviewers.