

place, and a healthy respect for the challenges, how can a strategy be developed to prevent and reduce the negative consequences stemming from the excessive accumulation and proliferation of this class of weapon?

I. Reinforce the building blocks

The basic premise of this call for action is that a consensus now exists on the dominance and global nature of intra-state conflict, the negative effects of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of this type of weapon, and the causes and modes of acquisition that must be addressed. A very brief look at both academia and the real world of governmental policymakers will reveal that this consensus may not be as "emerging" as indicated in this analysis. As Axworthy put it, "It will take truly innovative and co-operative efforts to reduce the toll taken by small arms, but we cannot allow ourselves to be deterred by the difficulty of the task." As the international community begins to address this problem in earnest and hits snag after snag, the easy way out will be to question the consensus found in these building blocks. But certainly those toiling in this field, at all levels, must continue to keep this consensus alive. As Axworthy said in Oslo of the land mine campaign, "we should not assume that the critics and opponents of the ban treaty have gone into hiding." For small arms and light weapons, a campaign in its infancy, this advice is all the more relevant.

In this regard any steps to increase transparency will enhance the consensus on the nature of the problem and the general approach forward. The work of those NGOs and governments which publicize the negative effects of conflict that can be directly linked to excessive arms supplies are particularly crucial.

And the various regional and multilateral efforts should continue as well. States interested in reducing the humanitarian damage from the use of these weapons should continue to support these efforts, as well as any national support in the form of capacity-building in states wishing to tackle these problems on their own.

II. A Campaign Based on a Treaty or Set of Principles

One of the primary reasons for the success of the land mines campaign was the ability to focus on a basic set of requirements that states could sign on to in the form of a treaty. Signers agree never to use, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer anti-personnel land mines. They also agree to destroy current stocks, remove all mines they have put in place, and provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation of land mine victims.

As indicated above, a similar approach for small arms and light weapons will be challenging. Perhaps the biggest dilemma is the reality of legal trade and production of these weapons. Some governments and NGOs have been pushing for a Code of Conduct that would apply to these legal transactions. In the United States the Federation of American Scientists and other NGOs have brought together a broad array of NGOs to push the U.S. government into agreeing to a set of four principles which recipients of U.S. arms would have to meet: a democratic form of government; respect for internationally-recognized norms of human rights; non-