

4.2 Information exchange and consultation

Inter-governmental information exchange and consultation on issues such as the transfer and seizure of small arms are essential parts of successful confidence-building and conflict prevention initiatives. Southern African countries should seek, nationally and regionally, to foster regular information exchange between policy-makers and those responsible for implementing policy, and to increase progressively, at national and regional level, transparency on legal and illegal transfers, holdings and seizures by:

- Increasing transparency on illicit seizures through increased information exchange, the establishment of an appropriate and accessible database and/or increased utilisation of Interpol's IWETs database, with SARPCCO the primary institution in this regard;
- Compiling details of national holdings and exchanging information on a confidential basis within ISDSC, placing particular emphasis on increasing transparency on national holdings/inventories on small arms and facilitating participation in global transparency initiatives (e.g. the UN Register).
- Developing the capacity to collate, organise and publish information on small arms transfers through the institution of national databases and exchanges of information on imports, exports and transfers, with a view to the establishment of a regional small arms register — SADC/ISDSC are the principal institutions in this regard;
- Southern African countries should seek to develop *ad hoc* bilateral and multilateral dialogues within SARPCCO in order to address issues related to the trafficking and circulation of arms.