

solution to the divisive sovereignty issue, the lesser evil is to ignore it while other policies are put into effect.

Group 2: Small Arms

The Group reviewed Peggy Mason's documentation of the lessons of the land mines campaign and their possible application to control of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Elements of the land mines success story included government leadership, a knowledgeable and motivated humanitarian community, mobilization of NGO support, partnership between government and civil society, a clear goal, and convergence of parties in the negotiating endgame. It should also be remembered that the Ottawa process could move fairly swiftly because anti-personnel land mines were marginal to the defence policies of most countries, and of little importance economically.

In the case of SALW, there is no single goal, such as an outright ban. Rather the goal is complex and multi-faceted, requiring mutually reinforcing actions at the national, regional and global levels. It is difficult for governments to agree on a program. The very success of NGO-government cooperation on land mines seems to have blunted the willingness of NGOs to exert critical pressure on governments. The economic impact of SALW is important to some countries, notably the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

The Group held that civil society must be forthright in criticizing government, like-minded governments must agree on a program of action, parliamentary oversight and accountability of arms transfer policy must be increased at the national level, and the problem of converting SALW industry to other economic activity must be taken up.

Group 3: War-Affected Children

Since the establishment of the Rights of the Child in 1989, issues involving children in conflicts have received much more attention than in the past. The continuing magnitude of the issues was illustrated at the 2000 Winnipeg Conference. The Group found three issues particularly pressing: impunity of governments owing to failure to ratify agreements and become accountable; protecting children from HIV/AIDS, and definition of youth, with particular emphasis on including youth in negotiations rather than just treating them as listeners. More attention should be given children in prisons, particularly in obtaining legal aid.