

Terrorism

33. Heads of Government reaffirmed their strongest condemnation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which destabilise the political, economic and social order of sovereign states. They reiterated their determination to promote international and regional co-operation and to strengthen the international legal framework to ensure that terrorists do not find safe haven in any part of the world. They welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings as the latest in the series of United Nations enactments on this subject and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1269 of 19 October 1999. They called for the adoption at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Terrorist Financing, and welcomed the agreement on elaborating, on a priority basis, a Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism. Recognising the linkages between terrorism, illegal trafficking in drugs, arms, and of persons, and money laundering, they further called on all states to enact laws to prevent financing of terrorists and terrorist organisations. They also called for firm deterrent measures by the United Nations Security Council against states, entities and organisations which harbour and train terrorists or promote international terrorism.

Children and Armed Conflict

34. Heads of Government expressed grave concern at the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on children and the long-term consequences of this for peace, security and development. They strongly condemned the targeting and abuse of children in situations of armed conflict and the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law, calling on all parties concerned to put an end to such practices. They welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution 1261 of 25 August 1999, and the current efforts to draft an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and encouraged efforts by all relevant actors at the national and international level to develop more coherent and effective approaches to the issue of children and armed conflict.
35. In the same context, Heads of Government also welcomed the adoption in June 1999 by the International Labour Organisation of the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. They noted that a large number of Commonwealth countries had signed the Convention and urged its ratification by as many member governments as possible.

Small Arms

36. Heads of Government expressed concern at the destabilising accumulation and proliferation of small arms, ammunition, and light weapons, which had contributed to the intensity and duration of armed conflicts as well as to international terrorism. They noted that many Commonwealth governments were adversely affected by the excessive and destabilising accumulation, and the uncontrolled flows of these lethal weapons. They believed that the challenge posed by the proliferation of small arms involved security, humanitarian and development dimensions. They welcomed the Statement made by the President of the United Nations Security Council on this subject on 29 September 1999 and emphasised the need for urgent action by the