

gunshots in Canada and the United States. In Canada, when the economic cost of human life was included, the assessment was as high as \$6 billion per year)

Public health professionals and other experts with shared objectives must also be mobilised

We must build on consensus that's already been built (i.e. on crime prevention) instead of acting in parallel with other movements.

Concern for children may be one of the key elements. Data collection and publicity, for instance on the issue of guns and children (children victims and children soldiers) might be effective methods.

Human Rights, Values and Education:

While addressing the supply side is important, we must also address the demand side by reducing the perception that firearms are solutions. Reference was made to the escalation of the domestic arms race in contexts where arming is equated with protection. Information regarding the risk associated with firearms in the home, for example, may help counter these arguments.

Reference was also made to trans cultural contamination from industrialised to non-industrialised nations - through marketing and media violence - and fuelling the demand for firearms. Strategies to prevent firearms death and injuries must address ways to counter this.

There is also a need to grapple with conceptions of freedom and human rights: the right to arms versus the fundamental human right to safety or freedom from fear.

There is also a gender dimension to the culture of violence and guns which cannot be ignored.

We must take human rights, nationality and sub nationality issues into account (i.e. while there are both legal and illegal guns in India, a large number of people are killed in the process of maintaining "law and order". This is similar to the situation in many other countries like Israel and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) At the same time, while India supports arms trade, all OECD countries and Russia have a greater roles in this, which is why government to government transfers are not being included in the conventions. This is in spite of the fact that most guns in Asia and Africa arrived there originally through government to government transfers of arms and not illegal trade- these are some of the reasons why the crime perspective is not always useful)

The health perspective may provide a way of avoiding being immobilised by politics because it focuses on preventing death and injury regardless of the specific context.

In addition, there are proposals which attempt to address the question of human rights by promoting embargoes on firearm sales to countries and groups with gross violations of human rights. There was, however, scepticism about the effectiveness of these measures.

Trade Issues:

Firearms/small arms are also a trade issue which poses some challenges for control - strong lobbies promote demand.

As with other foreign policy issues, small arms and firearms must confront the trade vs. human rights debate. In addition, there are questions about the relationship between domestic interests and international interests as well as complexities surrounding civilian versus military firearms ownership.

Follow-Up Action:

1. The OAS initiatives and UN resolutions have implications for both injury prevention/crime prevention and