

problem through an examination of the situation concerning smuggling, thefts, illegal sales, misuse of traditional weapons and national legislation related to the foregoing.

The Mission also discussed the state of the security forces and the customs service in order to understand their roles and their capacity to carry out those roles. It studied the current efforts being made by governments to alleviate the situation, including measures undertaken in cooperation with neighbouring states, and the assistance being provided by donor states, the United Nations and its agencies, non-governmental organizations and others.

The Mission concluded that:

- There was indeed a problem with illicit light weapons but it was very difficult to quantify the problem due to lack of accurate information. Typical users and types of incidents were identified. Origins and sources were difficult to identify but both external and internal sources were a major factor. National legislation was generally adequate but needed to be updated and enforced.
- There was a lack of human and material resources within governments to help them control the security situation. Human resource requirements revolved around better training and the payment of adequate compensation for tasks performed. Material requirements included such items as computers, communication equipment, electronic screening facilities at key entry points, and all-terrain vehicles.
- The lack of security was fuelling the demand for weapons. The availability of weapons was fuelling the cycle of banditry and violence which in turn was bringing structural development virtually to a halt and preventing any progress on socioeconomic problems.
- Until this latter situation was redressed, there was little or no opportunity for the collection of light weapons in the sub-region. On the other hand, it was possible for the Mission to make a number of recommendations concerning the **control** of light weapons.

These measures of control, necessary to create a climate allowing collection, translate into the need for a 'security first' approach.¹⁰⁴ At first glance this might seem to be in contradiction with an arms control exercise, but on closer

¹⁰⁴ The full terminology was 'a proportional and integrated approach to disarmament and security'. Nevertheless, 'security first' seems to be preferred as the 'shorthand' title.