

United Nations Office in Vienna carried out a United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation.²⁰ The Report of the Secretary-General was finalized on 7 March 1997.²¹

Firearms regulation is motivated primarily by a desire to prevent crime and promote public health and safety while disarmament efforts are primarily motivated by a desire to prevent threats to international peace and security whether through aggression across borders or through the spillover of internal conflicts across borders. In addition, disarmament efforts also find justification in preventing the negative social and economic consequences of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional weapons -- including small arms and light weapons. Both processes share a common concern about the negative consequences of illicit trafficking in military-style small arms. Both recognize that trade in small arms is legitimate; the challenge is to regulate effectively, not eradicate, the firearms/small arms trade.

Among the recommendations which are relevant to micro-disarmament is a request to the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, and the Wassenaar Arrangement²², respectively, to advise the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on measures to address proliferation of military small arms in the civilian population of member states.²³ It is also recommended that the Commission give high priority in post-conflict peacebuilding to technical cooperation projects designed to re-establish or strengthen the rule of law relating to the regulation of firearms use by civilians.²⁴

Anti-Personnel Mines and the Ottawa Process

In Ottawa, in October 1997, Canada hosted the first International Strategy Conference on Anti-Personnel (AP) Mines for representatives of 74 governments as well as numerous non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and international

²⁰ As noted earlier under the discussion of the Panel on Small Arms, the Firearm Study used a project team under a Coordinator from the Department of Justice in Canada.

²¹ UN Document E/CN.15/1997/4.

²² The Wassenaar Arrangement provides for information exchange among some 35 mainly, but not exclusively, industrialized countries. It is intended to promote "transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilising accumulations." See: Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Armaments and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, *Initial Elements*, 12 July 1996, para. I (1).

²³ Annex I, p. 8, para. 8.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p.9, para. 12.