

I-OVERVIEW OF CANADIAN EXPERTISE

The UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade on Small Arms in all its Aspects developed a consensus based Programme of Action to address the problem at the global, regional and national level. Since then, a number of studies and consultations have been undertaken to identify areas for follow up and priorities. The inventory which follows is an attempt to identify Canadian NGOs and researchers with expertise relevant to the continuing efforts to address the global problem of small arms.

Over recent years, the Government of Canada, Canadian researchers and Canadian NGOs have been at the forefront of efforts to reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms. Canada has played a major role in the development of the Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Production of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (1997), the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (2000) or the UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and All its Aspects (2001).

Canadian researchers have led a wide range of studies and reports directly related to small arms. Not only have Canadian NGOs gained extensive experience in virtually every aspect where follow-up is required, Canadian NGOs have been actively engaged in the processes of education, advocacy and capacity building at all levels including the creation of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

Several studies have been published which analyze the Programme of Action developed at the UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and All Its Aspects, and specific areas for follow up. These include reports by researchers,¹ NGOs² and results of regional consultations³. They vary in their assessments of the priority areas.

¹ Andrew Latham, Addressing the Small Arms/Light Weapons Problem: an Overview of Programs and Funding, ISROP, June, 2002. Ed Lawrence, Reaching Consensus in New York, Small Arms Survey, Geneva, 2003 (forthcoming); Natalie Goldring, A Glass Half Full: the UN Small Arms Conference, Council on Foreign Relations, Roundtable on the Geo-Economics of Military Preparedness, 9/26/01.

² IPPNW, Aiming for Prevention: International Medical Conference on Small Arms, Gun Violence and Injury, Helsinki, 2001; Project Ploughshares, The UN and a small arms program of action: measuring success, Waterloo, 2002; SAFER-net, Follow-up to The UN 201 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in All its Aspects, Roundtable, CCFP, 2002.

³ Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central America: Implementing the UN Programme of Action's Aspects for Control and Regulation of Arms Transfers. Recommended Actions for National and Regional Implementation. San Jose, Costa Rica, December 5, 2001; Geneva Forum, Implementing the UN Program of Action: What Needs to be Done? February 7-8, 2002.