

### ***Option 3: Focused Support for the UN Programme of Action***

The final option available to Canada is to focus financial resources on implementing the *UN Programme of Action*.

In its purest form, this option would involve the creation of a trust fund through which a substantial portion of all Canadian SALW-relevant donor assistance would be channeled. Ideally, Canada would provide the initial investment in the fund. This initial contribution could range somewhere between the US\$2.1 million that Norway invested to initiate the UNDP Trust Fund up to the US\$100 million that the Netherlands committed to launch the Great Lakes multi-donor trust fund.

This trust fund could be a wholly Canadian mechanism (ie., a fund established by Canada to administer Canadian resources), a "bilateral" arrangement (for example, a Canada-EU trust fund), or a truly multilateral fund initially created through a Canadian initiative, but ultimately supported by other members of the international donor community. Structurally, it might be a "stand alone" multi-donor trust fund or it might be located within the UN DDA (or even associated in some manner with the DDA SALW trust fund). It might also take the form of a dedicated *multi-donor trust fund for the UN Programme of Action* (in much the same way as there is currently a multi-donor trust fund for the Sierra Leone Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Program).

However configured, the remit of this trust fund would be to direct donor assistance to programmes and projects consistent with the *UN Programme of Action*. The objective of the Fund would be to fill urgent gaps in SALW programming resulting from the lack of regional or sub-regional commitments or projects – that is, to provide resources to support initiatives undertaken in connection with the *Programme of Action*. It could also be used to promote new and more innovative approaches to the SALW problem. Where appropriate, the Fund could be structured to call upon Canadian skills to better meet these objectives. The new Fund would not duplicate existing global or regional programmes but would aim complement these by being able to respond quickly to urgent SALW-related needs that cannot be met through other global or regional programming mechanisms. Use of the Fund could be restricted to countries eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA). Eligible partner organizations could include NGOs, NGOs, United Nations agencies or other national, regional or international organisations could be called upon to implement activities financed by the Fund.

If such a fund were unilateral (ie. Canadian only), it would have the benefit of being a highly visible and accessible focal point for Canadian funding of global, regional and sub-regional SALW programmes. If this were the case, then the fund/programme could act as a kind of clearing house for requests for Canadian SALW assistance (and could perhaps be charged with keeping a rolling inventory of all Canadian SALW-relevant programmes, projects, expertise and development assistance. If such a fund were to be bilateral or multilateral in nature it would have the benefit of acting as a clearing house for *international* donor support, thus enhancing the coordination and efficient use of resources. As with other trust funds, it could be structured so as to be responsive to the real and pressing needs of states, regional/sub-regional institutions or NGOs in SALW-affected regions. It could also be charged with providing assistance with the implementation of all the categories of commitment embodied in the *UN Programme of Action*, thus providing a mechanism for supporting SALW action in regions/sub-regions not currently covered by a politically or legally binding regional agreement.