

## CHAPTER II GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

**Objective:** To provide an overview of the resources that global organizations and programmes have allocated to support major global, regional and sub-regional SALW-related commitments and programmes.

### Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the SALW-related programmes currently being implemented by major global international organizations (IOs). It attempts to address the following questions: What sorts of programmes are being implemented by these IOs? What are the major geographic and functional foci of these programmes? And, how are these programmes being funded?

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### *Programming and Resource Allocation*

The main mission of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is development. However, given the growing recognition that SALW proliferation and accumulations in volatile and/or post-conflict situations undermines peace-building, reconstruction and development, the UNDP now delivers programmes that reduce demand for SALWs while promoting more sustainable forms of security and employment. Indeed, through its *Small Arms Programme*, UNDP is now a major contributor to, and facilitator of, the global campaign to combat and eradicate small arms and light weapons. Working with other UN agencies, national governments, and NGOs, the UNDP has sought to address the SALW problem in several ways. First, it has engaged in pragmatic "Weapons for Development" micro-disarmament efforts involving the voluntary surrender of illegal arms in exchange for development assistance and community development aid. Second, the UNDP has also sought to reduce demand for SALWs by promoting sustainable development and the alleviation of the root causes of conflict. Third, the UNDP also works with states to promote regional cooperation and self-restraint. Fourth, UNDP promotes and supports capacity building in the areas of border and customs controls. Finally, the UNDP supports public awareness and education activities at national and regional levels.

Examples of UNDP projects include:

- *Albania:* Perhaps the best example of a UNDP's "weapons for development" program, the Arms Collection Pilot Program in Albania helped organize the collection and destruction of weapons in the Gramsh district. Initially conceived as a traditional weapons buyback scheme, it subsequently evolved into a "weapons for development" program. The project encouraged the voluntary surrender of illegal arms in exchange for development assistance packages and community development aid. Though the initial program was limited to Tirana, it was later expanded to the Elbasan and Diber districts. Overall, some 14,000 weapons have been destroyed through this project.<sup>1</sup>
- *El Salvador.* In partnership with local government institutions, NGOs, and universities, the UNDP has pursued steps to strengthen legal restrictions on small arms and promote public awareness.

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<sup>1</sup>UNDP Website.