

an important and valuable achievement however, many countries with illicit weapons trafficking problems lack the capacity and infrastructure to implement agreements.

Recommendations

- Countries with technical expertise and financial resources should commit substantial resources to support developing countries within the OAS to meaningfully implement the Convention.
- The developed nations within the OAS could contribute funds for developing countries participation in the InterpolIWETS database.

2. Developing a "Security First" approach

An important way of securing funds for implementing effective firearms control is to recognise the link between security and long term development and stability. Controlling light weapons is not just a law enforcement issue. In contrast to the OAS Convention, the EU Programme on illicit weapons starts from the premise that peace and security are inextricably interlinked to with economic development and reconstruction . This acknowledgment enables EU countries to provide substantial funds from development budgets to support capacity building for police and customs and to fund collection, buy back and destruction programmes.

Recommendation

- OAS states should consider firearms control within the broader context of development and post conflict reconstruction.

CONCLUSION

A coherent and comprehensive approach to light weapons proliferation is required. To control light weapons nationally, it will be necessary to control them internationally and vice versa. It is therefore vital for the various UN efforts and regional initiatives to work together in developing policy recommendations that enable cooperation at a regional and international level.

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