

Arms to work with the Mission and to suggest how the problem of light weapons proliferation should be addressed. It was established that part of the problem centered on the failure of governments to provide security.³⁸ This appears to be in part a "cause and cause" condition where a proliferation in criminal activity was aided and abetted by a proliferation of firearms which created a security problem that created a situation where more firearms were needed to offset the threat. There were several causes of the original weapons proliferation -- Chad, Mali, Niger and Senegal had experienced intrastate conflict. It was the missions belief that most of the weapons creating the problem were of the AK-47 variety and had been in the region for some time.. It was recognized that firearms used primarily for hunting and ceremonial purposes (presumably non-automatic with low capacity magazines) had been carried in the past and these were not a serious problem. While the states concerned had reviewed their legislation concerning firearms, only Burkina Faso had updated it. It was stressed that sub-regional harmonization would improve their mutual capacity to enforce legislation. Also legislation needed to be supported by adequate control measures - customs procedures and border controls. The key recommendations addressing the issue of light weapons proliferation in the region might be summarized as outlined below.

- States in the region must continue to study and address the issue of light weapons proliferation by maintaining their National Committees established at the behest of the mission . They should seek to improve and broaden their mandate and improve cooperation among the states concerned.
- Security in the area must be enhanced - this includes all organizations dealing with law and order including the police, gendarme, customs and the military. It was recognized that in many instances the states concerned did not have the financial resources nor the expertise to address this problem. There is a role then for assistance in the form of training and financial support from the international community. It should be stressed that part of this training must involve the hearts and minds of the community at large. In other words professionalism must be instilled and corruption, extortion and undisciplined behaviour must be eradicated from the forces concerned.
- States must strengthen their legislation and judicial procedures in regards to firearms. This must include an ability to enforce the laws preferably in close cooperation with other states in the region.
- The states both individually and collectively should mount an education and publicity campaign to sensitize the population to the harm incurred by light weapons proliferation. This would include the involvement of the various law enforcement agencies.

³⁸ See. Lake and Rothchild, 41. Security is a perception problem as well as a real problem.