

issues that are consonant with the general emphasis of Canadian foreign policy. These are discussed in chapter seven and summarized in Figure 7.3.

### *Multilateral Norm-Building Efforts*

Effective international action to constrain conventional proliferation must rest upon a widely-shared understanding of the nature and limits of the legitimate trade in arms. Canada should contribute actively to the development of a consensual set of principles to outline the appropriate scope and limits to the arms trade. Canada has had an earlier success in devising and promoting a document on the "Principles of Verification," which was ultimately endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly. It could draw on that experience to advance an analogous set of principles through the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, or various multilateral forums. A draft set of principles, which incorporates the themes and emphasis of this report, is presented in Figure 7.2.

### *Harmonization of National Export Control Systems*

Greater harmonization of national export control systems is important if already-stated goals of constraining conventional proliferation are to be realized. Four issues are central:

- harmonizing national (including Canadian) statistics and enhancing the statistics-gathering skills of developing states;
- encouraging wide membership in the New Forum to control technology transfers and focusing on the broad security consequences of technology transfers;
- exploring the development of a multilateral computerized data base, tracking, and early-warning system for dual-use exports;
- reinforcing national capacities for export control in emerging democracies.

### *Information-Sharing and Transparency Mechanisms*

Increased transparency and better information-gathering mechanisms represent perhaps the most pressing short-term issues for constraining conventional proliferation. Outside of the trade in major weapons systems, the international community has a poor grasp of the nature and scope of the global arms trade. Canada should promote unilateral and multilateral measures to:

- resume tracking military goods exports to the United States (without which a credible Canadian case for greater transparency will be difficult to advance);
- explore with industry means by which greater information on existing exports could be made publicly available, without compromising issues of commercial confidentiality;
- continue to push for improvements to the UN Register of Conventional Arms, including the development of regional registers (where appropriate), the addition of new categories, the reporting of additional information, and the submission of details of national procurement and holdings;
- support official and NGO efforts to track the trade in light weapons and small arms;
- promote national transparency and reporting mechanisms.

Not all of these measures, however, have low direct and indirect costs, but some of them would not require the application of major new resources. In the current fiscal climate, attention should be paid to those measures that require only the redirection of time and effort within various government departments.