

pack animal and light truck, to those actually used in internecine conflict.¹² Other typologies include that used by *Jane's Infantry Weapons*¹³ dividing light weapons into personal (pistols, sub-machine guns, rifles and light support weapons used by military forces) and crew served (machine guns, cannon, anti-tank weapons, mortars), and ammunition (small arms, combat grenades, mortar ammunition and pyrotechnics). According to reporting and technical presentations at some work shops on light weapons proliferation, it is weapons originally designed for military use that are causing the problems -- in most instances automatic small arms, but also explosive ordnance such as hand grenades. The ubiquitous AK-47 and its variants and similar automatic weapons with large capacity magazines and an abundance of cheap ammunition are the most frequently cited problem.¹⁴ Definition takes on added significance when UN and Regional Arms Registers are discussed in aid of transparency. Defining major weapons systems was a difficult process insofar as the CFE Treaty was concerned -- the potential problems for reporting on light weapons increases significantly.

If the issue of light weapons proliferation from an international security perspective is seen as political violence perpetrated by armed groups, it is suggested that the focus should be on light weapons designed for use primarily by security forces, military and police. A cursory review of firearms regulations of several countries indicates that in broad terms this approximates the division between non-prohibited and prohibited firearms -- notwithstanding varying requirements for registration and safekeeping.¹⁵ While this arbitrary division is subject to criticism, it addresses two concerns that cannot be easily dismissed if obtaining international consensus and cooperation is desired. One is the so-called legitimacy issue in many states involving the right to enjoy a sport or hobby (target shooting, hunting or collection), the requirement for sustenance through hunting (important in many isolated communities particularly with aboriginal peoples), the requirement to protect livestock and crops and control certain animal populations, and in some cases the right to personal security. If international agreements are to be found in the area of light weapons as an arms control issue, then defining light weapons in this manner is not an insignificant issue.¹⁶ As

¹²Aaron Karp. "Small Arms: The New Major Weapons." *Ploughshares Monitor*. September 1995, 17-20. Also Michael T. Klare "Stemming the Lethal trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons." *Issues in Science and Technology*. Fall 1995, 52-58.

¹³ See Terry Gander (ed) *Jane's Infantry Weapons*. 22nd edition Surrey England, 1996-97

¹⁴ See. Maj Gen M.R. Nyambuya "Proliferation of Small Arms in Southern Africa" Paper Presented at Pretoria Workshop. Also Report by van der Graff, Henry J. *Proliferation of Light Weapons in the Sahel*. Presentation to Experts Panel on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Regional Workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, 23-25 September 1996.

¹⁵Canada. *A Review of Firearm Statistics and Regulations in Selected Countries*. Research, Statistics and Evaluation Directorate, Department of Justice, Canada, April 25, 1995

¹⁶See *European Union Letter to the UN on Small Arms*. Letter dated 28 May 1996. It is clear from this letter that the EU sees automatic firearms and light weapons designed for military use as the problem.