

Canada is looking at ways to address the proliferation of small arms, which undermines the security and development efforts of many developing countries. Canada imposes strict controls over the export of firearms, particularly for automatic weapons, which can be exported only to a small group of countries with which Canada has concluded intergovernmental defence, research, development and production agreements. These countries, which make up the Automatic Firearms Country Control List (AFCCCL), are listed in Annex 1.

Canada has also been active in several fora, including: the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the P-8 (the group of eight countries that participate in the annual Economic Summit) to promote international initiatives aimed at addressing aspects of this problem. These initiatives include: seconding an expert to the United Nations' Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, which is examining the problem of disarming combatants after hostilities have ended (see DFAIT's January 1997 study *Light Weapons and Micro-Disarmament*); working actively to put in place an effective and enforceable OAS convention on the illicit trafficking in small arms; and chairing the OAS-led effort to develop model import/export regulations for small arms transfers.

Canada is also seeking to promote greater transparency and responsibility among supplying countries with regard to the trade in conventional arms. The focal point for such activity is the Wassenaar Arrangement, formed by the participating countries in 1996, which seeks to ensure regional and international peace and security by preventing destabilizing accumulations of conventional weapons and dual use equipment. Canada was a founding member of this group, which currently includes some 33 countries.

## **Export Control Policy and Implementation**

The control over exports of our own military goods and technology is an important complement to Canada's broader arms control and disarmament efforts. Canada uses the definition of a "military good," as it is obliged by international agreement to do, from the International Munitions List. This list was developed and is routinely maintained and updated by the Wassenaar Arrangement, of which Canada is a part. Canada has adopted this list as its official control list, contained in Canadian law in the *Export Control List* (ECL) as Group 2 (Munitions). It lists goods that are "specifically designed or modified for military use." Primarily civilian goods that may be sold to military end-users (such as boots or tires) were not included by Wassenaar (and by extension, Canada), though strategically important types are contained in the ECL Group 1 (Dual Use). The Munitions list includes exports of goods meeting the Wassenaar definition, such as target pistols, hunting rifles or ruggedized radios, regardless of whether the foreign consignee is a private, non-military end-user or a government and/or military end-user.