

maintaining systems for verifying and recording such destruction, and developing systems to enhance public awareness of such activities in order to encourage local and national initiatives to collect and destroy arms.

- *The EU and other members of the donor community could consider encouraging the destruction of old stocks by contributing funds to offset lost income or by contributing to the process of disabling or destroying such weapons. The prospects of such assistance should tend to be enhanced if the recipient state has committed itself to a reduction in its military holdings.*

3.2 Removing confiscated and unlicensed weapons from circulation

Illicit or unlicensed arms, ammunition and other military equipment that are captured or confiscated, need to be permanently removed from circulation, to prevent illicit leakage. SADC states should consider the following measures to achieve this requirement:

- Adopting co-ordinated national policies to the effect that confiscated or unlicensed arms that come into the possession of state authorities are normally destroyed, and establish national or regional systems to implement, oversee and report such a policy;
- Maintaining and further developing joint and combined operations across borders among groups of Southern African states to capture and destroy weapons and arms caches remaining after conflicts and civil wars — similar in character to Operation Rachel between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique for the locating, capturing and on-site destruction of arms caches.

3.3 Voluntary weapon collection and exchange programmes

Southern African countries should expand and improve programmes for the voluntary collection or exchange of arms from civilian possession, both nationally and through co-ordinated regional programmes. To develop such programmes, they should consider:

- Establishing a co-ordinated regional programme to review experiences, inside the SADC region and elsewhere, with voluntary arms collection or exchange projects, with the aim of identifying and promoting best practice. This programme would aim to co-ordinate the expansion of such activities throughout the region, and to help ensure that the conditions and resources required for the success of such projects (such as the availability of police forces in which local communities have confidence) are in place;
- Integrating arms collection or exchange projects with development aid projects in the targeted communities, to make services or goods valued by the local communities available in exchange for guns;
- Establishing the policy that arms collected through gun exchange or collection projects would normally be destroyed, and in any case disposed of responsibly and securely, and aim to mobilise the necessary resources for implementation.
- *The EU and its member states should consider supporting such arms collection exchange and destruction programmes;*
- *The EU should consider supporting, where possible, post-conflict demobilisation initiatives*