

The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to explore ways and means of developing a programme of continuing education for criminal justice administrators and of public education and awareness-building in relation to the links between firearms in civilian use and the unacceptable levels of violence in cities, communities and families and to disseminate that information in order to encourage Member States to undertake similar programmes: (...)

Further taking note of the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the question of the control of the international movement of illicit firearms and explosives, including the proposal for the model regulation for the control of the international movement of firearms. (...)

The resolution invites the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms established in pursuance of GA resolution 50/70, B, and other relevant specialised intergovernmental organisations to provide the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with available information about the results of their work in relation to the unlawful proliferation of military-style small arms in Member States; (...) (N.B. : their last meeting was on December 10 1997 in Washington, during the workshop held in Sao Paulo)

The resolution invites the other relevant intergovernmental organisations to re-analyse their data on issues related to firearms, within the scope of the international study on firearm regulation, with a view to informing the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, through the Secretary-General, of possible steps towards improving the collection and analysis of the related interdisciplinary statistics;

(...)

Furthermore, in the context of the successful campaign on land mines, there is a mounting world wide interest in stunting the flow of assault rifles and other small arms to troubled regions by seeking stricter international controls on the transfer of such firearms. Indeed, several nations around the world want to build on a new type of international diplomacy where NGOs and governments cooperate to formulate policy - a formula that worked for anti-land mine campaigners and their fight for a treaty banning mines - that could serve the small arms and firearms injury prevention and control issue. One of the first countries was CANADA (with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who is working on a strategy along with the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, several NGOs and if possible along with the World Health Organisation¹). Shortly after, the government of Sweden has proposed a global convention on the control of firearms. " Now NORWAY - is joining in (with Jan Egeland, who was deputy foreign minister under Norway's former Labour government, who heads a campaign established by the Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Church Aid, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and the International Peace Research Institute Oslo, with financial and political support from the government). Recently, the VATICAN who seems to understand the domestic as well as international implications in the issue of firearms, also wants to take on a new challenge: the "massive proliferation of weapons of small calibre," like hand guns, said Cardinal Etchegaray, a top Vatican official : "No region of the world escapes the scourge of these weapons, so simple that even children can carry them and, unfortunately, use them."

In December 1997, the Federation of American Scientists, Arms Sales Monitoring Project, Regional, International, and Governmental Efforts to Combat the Illicit Traffic in Small and Light Arms, have listed on-going efforts by the international governmental community to address the dangers posed by the illicit traffic in arms:

The Council of Europe

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations/Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the United Nations/UNOJUST

Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute of the United Nations (UNICRI)

European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control

European Union

Interpol (ICPO)

Group of Eight (G-8)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)