

in the partner region and could be disbursed in response to specific requests from regional, sub-regional or national actors, as well as NGOs engaged in operational SALW programmes.

The advantages of such a regional partnership (supported by a dedicated Canadian trust fund) are multiple. First, to the extent that the partnership focused on an under-resourced region, there would be an obvious value-added in terms of meeting real and pressing operational needs. Second, to the extent that the terms and objectives of the regional partnership could be made to reflect the regional-level commitments embodied in the UN *Programme of Action* (such as promoting regional cooperation, coordination and harmonization of SALW measures and enforcement mechanisms; establishing, regional stockpile management and security mechanisms; supporting national and regional DDR programmes; and developing voluntary transparency measures), this sort of arrangement would be broadly consistent with emerging international priorities. Finally, such an arrangement would be highly visible, thereby enhancing both accessibility and Canada's international leadership profile (both within the Hemisphere and in connection with the SALW issue).

Focusing donor support on multilateral institutions: Another approach to implementing Option 2 would be to channel a greater portion of Canadian SALW resources through existing multilateral institutions such as the UNDP, DDA or the World Bank. This would have obvious benefits in terms of rationalizing and focusing Canadian donor assistance, as a larger portion of Canadian assistance would be coordinated through a relatively small number of global multilateral institutions. Given that these institutions all address key elements of the UN *Programme of Action*, such an approach would also be consistent with emerging international priorities. Providing significant resources to the DDA might allow that department to exercise a greater leadership role with respect to implementing the UN *Programme of Action*.

On the negative side of the ledger, such an approach would both circumscribe Canada's capacity to direct SALW funds in accordance with its own interests and priorities and reduce Canada's leadership profile on this issue. These problems could be addressed, however, if Canada were to establish a Canadian SALW trust fund within the relevant multilateral institution. The Japanese Post-Conflict Fund within the World Bank suggests that there is ample precedent for such an arrangement. A sufficiently well endowed Canadian trust fund, over which Canada would retain some strategic control (by establishing guidelines for allocating grants), would certainly address concerns about Canada's leadership profile in the SALW field. It would also allow Canada to establish the terms and criteria under which funds would be allocated.

Another variation on this theme would be to contribute substantial financial resources to help establish a functional fund within a multilateral institution. That is what the UK, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway and South Korea did when they provided substantial funds to the United Nations Development Programme to allow it to establish its long term *Weapons Collection, Management and Destruction Programme*. The purpose of this programme is to deploy experts to assist, train and build the capacity of states, regional organizations and international agencies in areas such as weapons collection, stockpile management, safe storage and the destruction of weaponry. Canada could identify a similar functional category (say, capacity building for export controls or border/customs management or security sector reform/community policing) and contribute financial resources to establish a functional fund within a relevant multilateral institution.

Adopting a functional focus: A final approach to implementing Option 2 would be to adopt a strictly functional focus to funding and programme support. This would involve Canada focusing its SALW resources on, for example, DDR or weapons collection/destruction. Given Canada's broad base of SALW-relevant expertise it is difficult to conclude that Canada should focus largely on, say, DDR to the exclusion or detriment of security sector reform.