

military holdings and the relationship of small arms and light weapons to the Register. Canada is one of a growing number of countries that voluntarily submit data on military holdings as well as on procurement through national production. This information goes beyond the minimum currently required by the United Nations and makes an important contribution to global transparency on military capabilities. We encourage other countries to join us in submitting such data; we also encourage them to enhance their submissions by ensuring their accuracy and completeness and by providing any other relevant background information.

Canada, in cooperation with like-minded partners, is looking at ways to address the proliferation of small arms, which can undermine the security and development efforts of many developing countries as well as contribute to human suffering. We have adopted an integrated approach, addressing the arms control, crime prevention and peace-building dimensions of the issue at the global, regional and national levels. Such an approach targets supply-side and transit issues, and seeks to cope with post-conflict surplus stocks and reduce the demand for weapons. Resolving the small arms problem is seen as an integral part of conflict prevention and management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

On the arms control front, the emphasis is on promoting measures designed to achieve greater restraint and transparency in legal transfers of small arms and light weapons. Aspects under review include codes of conduct, transparency and registry initiatives, and consciousness-raising activities in security-related bodies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the OSCE and Wassenaar. Canada's own strict procedures to control the exports of small arms are described below.

A long-standing policy objective for Canada is the non-proliferation, reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (i.e. chemical and biological weapons). Canada has played an active role in efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. For example, Canada helped to secure the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and lobbied other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Canada ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in September 1995 and established within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) a National Authority to serve as the focal point for effective liaison with the Convention's international secretariat in The Hague. Canada is also working to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) through multilateral efforts and national measures.

Canada is increasingly concerned over missile proliferation, especially the continued rise in the number of indigenous development programs and new exporters.