

point of production, end use certification, and brokering of all deals have also been proposed.⁵⁵

More transparent and effective controls on the manufacture, sale and transfer of firearms are critical to controlling the flow of firearms for criminal activities and conflict.⁵⁶ The recent OAS (CICAD) agreement and model regulation is one example of an effort to establish international standards but significant resources are required to implement them.

The Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Convention Against the Illegal Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, was signed by 34 countries. It identified the need to develop additional methods to secure borders in order to fight transnational crime, drug-trafficking and terrorism.

The Convention is supported by:

- model regulations for the movement of firearms, their components and ammunition developed by the Committee Inter American Control Abuse of Drugs (CICAD)
- import and export controls
- strong standardized processes for the legal trade in order to combat the illicit trade
- need to have greater transparency for commercial shipments and to provide a "paper trail"

The Model Regulation obligations include:

- each state will define firearms, parts, or components can be imported or exported or transmitted through their countries
- import certificate for volume, type, classification, serial numbers,
- export certificates must include serial number for firearms and ammunition at time of shipment
- need for transit pre-authorization
- must keep records and identify central point of contact
- computerized records where possible
- cannot make changes to import or export certificates but must reapply

These do not, however, apply to state to state transactions. The OAS Convention contains a number of measures designed to enhance international cooperation and supply law enforcement with information to support tracing. While the aim of these regulations is to reduce the illegal trafficking of firearms in the context of crime they have significant implications for controlling the trafficking of firearms to conflict areas. A similar model is being proposed by the P-8, but at this time it is unclear whether or not it will be binding.

⁵⁵ Owen Greene, op cit., Saferworld Virginia Gamba ISS <http://africa.cis.co.za>
International Red Cross, Arms Transfers and International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Sept 1997
Council of Delegates, Seville
Carnegie Commission Corporation <http://www.ccpdc.org>

⁵⁶ This point is made by Natalie Goldring, Op cit., Michael Renner, op. cit. and others.