

approach to this challenge, addressing the arms control, crime prevention and peacebuilding dimensions of the problem at global, regional and national levels. This integrated approach targets supply-side and transit issues, and seeks to cope with post-conflict surplus stocks and reduce the demand for weapons. The problem of small arms is seen as an integral part of conflict prevention and management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

On the arms control track, 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) and the OSCE. Canada itself imposes strict controls over the export of firearms, particularly automatic weapons, which can be exported only to a small group of 13 countries with which Canada has concluded intergovernmental defence, research, development and production agreements. These countries, which make up the Automatic Firearms Country Control List (AFCCL), are listed in Annex 1.

On the crime control track, the focus is on supporting measures to counter the significant illicit trade in small arms, which is frequently linked with international organized crime and drug trafficking. In November 1997, Canada signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials. This convention establishes a reciprocal regime of import, export and transit authorizations for all cross-border movements of small arms, ammunition and explosives. Canada has also prepared a draft protocol on firearms to be attached to the Transnational Organized Crime Convention, on which negotiations began in January 1999.

On the peacebuilding track, Canada supports a broad range of initiatives addressing the humanitarian, governance and practical disarmament aspects of the small arms issue, in co-operation with like-minded governments and non-governmental organizations. Further information can be found in a paper entitled Strategic Framework for Small Arms Proliferation and Peacebuilding, which has been circulated to a number of domestic and international partners.

Canada believes that the upcoming 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms will provide a very important milestone in addressing all three aspects of the small arms issue.

Canada has also played an active role in efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, for example, by helping to secure the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and by lobbying other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Canada ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in September 1995 and established within 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 compliance provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. As part of Canada's commitment to ensure responsible trade in goods and technology that might be misused to