

The focus on illegal transfers of small arms and other weapons is reflected in recent initiatives at the OAS to develop the *Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials* (1997) and a *Model Regulation for the Control of International Movement of Firearms, their Parts and Components and their Ammunition*. (A draft *Regional Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance With Respect to Illegal Trafficking in Weapons* (1996) has also been elaborated by the Central American Security Commission.) He pointed out that the *Model Regulation* (adopted in Peru in November 1997) is a set of guidelines to govern the import, export and in-transit movement of all commercially traded firearms. The guidelines do not apply to government-to-government transfers of military small arms. The *Convention* contains measures to encourage and facilitate enhanced cooperation among OAS countries in dealing with illicit transnational trafficking associated with firearms, their parts and components, ammunition and explosives.

*The assumed distinction between the "licit" and the "illicit" poses challenges for developing an effective small arms non-proliferation regime, Yvon Dandurand said. The member states' rhetorical commitment to developing such a regime is yet to be matched by practical action. In this context, the effectiveness of adopting yet another Convention at the OAS is questionable.*

Synergy should be promoted between various international efforts, including United Nations initiatives, and regionally-based initiatives. A base upon which future work and enhanced international cooperation can be build exists. However, unless existing initiatives are implemented, they have the potential to create a false sense of security. "Formal agreements are, in themselves, incapable of curbing the negative effects of the proliferation of firearms in the Hemisphere. They must lead to concrete, concerted actions by jurisdictions." Therefore, efforts should be directed to trying to implement already existing instruments rather than adopting new Conventions. In conclusion he reminded participants that progress at the international level depends on the progress achieved domestically.

Edward Lawrence outlined the initiative of the Monterey Institute in exploring ways to bring civil society input to bear on the activities of the OAS General Assembly (June 4-6, 2000). He said that this initiative grew out of Minister Axworthy's visit to the Monterey Institute (March 7, 2000) during which the Minister was briefed on the efforts by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) to bring civil society into the Prep Coms and actual UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Summer 2001).

He described the small arms situation in Latin America as follows:

- Key factors contributing to the excessive accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons in the Hemisphere are: 1) supply of weapons at the close of civil conflicts, 2) the conflict in Columbia, 3) international trade in narcotics. He drew attention to a particularly harmful impact of hand grenades.