

## **Option 2: Focused Support for Specific Regional and/or Sub-Regional Programmes**

If continuing with the current approach to SALW action is problematic, what alternatives are available to Canadian foreign and development policy officials? The first alternative approach would be to focus support on one or more key regions/implementation programmes, multilateral institutions/trust funds, or types of SALW action.

Adopting a regional focus: One way that Canada might begin to focus and rationalize its funding of SALW commitments and programmes would be to concentrate resources on one or more regional implementation initiatives. For example, Canada might opt to target technical and financial resources at EAPCCO and the Nairobi Secretariat (the two key institutional elements of the *Implementation Plan of the Coordinated Agenda for Action on the Problem of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa*) which is far less well resourced than similar implementation programmes in Southern Africa. Specific needs in East Africa and the Greater Horn include:

- workshops, roundtables and ministerial meetings;
- regional and national training programmes;
- the establishment of national databases and communications systems;
- the development of research capacity in the region;
- regional, national and local public awareness programmes;
- assistance with weapons collection and destruction programmes;
- for capacity building to implementing agencies, National Focal Points and the Permanent Secretariat (the Nairobi Secretariat);
- for exchange programmes and expertise; and
- for programmes such as demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants, rehabilitation of child soldiers, management of refugee communities to reduce demand and forestall the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Other regional and sub-regional programmes that might warrant close attention in this regard include the OAS/Central America, where insufficient institutional capacity and lack of technical and financial resources are frustrating efforts to implement the *Model Regulations*, the *Inter-American Convention*, and related sub-regional agreements such as the *Framework Agreement for Democratic Security in Central America* and the *Antigua Declaration* and the *Antigua Declaration*.

There are two broad approaches to administering funding to under-resourced regional programmes. The first is to continue allocating funds on a pragmatic case-by-case basis, but targeting SALW resources at a specific region or sub-region. While certainly feasible, a potentially far more effective and attractive option would be to implement a regional partnership between Canada and a particularly under-resourced region such as East Africa or Latin/Central America. In the former case, the EU-SADC arrangement described above provides something of a generic model for this kind of partnership. Such a Canada-regional arrangement might be best financed through a dedicated Canadian SALW trust fund that could be established either within either the OAS or the Nairobi Secretariat (or possibly the OAU). Resources from such a trust fund would be dedicated to SALW action