

to effectively reduce the number of weapons in circulation, in conflicts and in civil society, is to destroy all weapons seized.

### ***Recommendations***

- Incorporate mandatory and public destruction as an element in all weapons collection efforts (e.g. gun amnesties, seizures of illegal weapons).
- Address destruction as a priority within the demobilisation process and peacekeeping mandates to prevent military weapons entering civil society.
- Provide training, technical assistance, and an international support fund for destruction efforts.
- Institute verifiable record-keeping of collections/seizures as well as losses and destructions.
- Develop better co-ordination between short term disarmament programs and long term peace-building programs.
- Support related destruction efforts, such as destruction of surplus weapons, to prevent possible theft from storage facilities and recirculation.

## **5. Illicit weapons trafficking and drug routes**

There are clear links between narcotics trafficking and the light weapons trade, including shared supply and transit routes, use of light weapons for "protection" among drug traffickers, and funding gun-running through the drug trade and vice versa. The political will of governments is much stronger on the issue of controlling narcotics trafficking. However, if governments are serious about stopping the drug trade, they need to begin to address the light weapons trade. Some drug control efforts have begun to collect information on related firearms offences and seizures, such as the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

### ***Recommendations***

- Use drug cooperation as a model for international cooperation in controlling light weapons. For example, the Organization of American States has a comprehensive programme on narcotics control that attempts to compile country statistics on related seizures of firearms.
- Investigate the feasibility of incorporating light weapons control into existing international drug control efforts.

## **RESOURCES REQUIRED TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT CHANGES**

### **1. Increased financial and human resources**

Improvements will cost money. The recognition of the problems of light weapons proliferation, especially firearms trafficking, is to be welcomed. However, for current initiatives to move from statements of intent to effective and implementable agreements will require considerable financial and human resources. As yet, none of the OAS governments have committed any financial resources to implementation of the convention. Without ample resources, the commitments made on information sharing, record-keeping and tracing of weapons are unlikely to be met. The OAS Convention is