

TECHNICAL ISSUES

TRACING AND MARKING

Efforts to prevent and combat the diversion of arms to illicit markets would be strengthened by an improved collective capacity to trace these weapons back to their origin and clarify the chain of transactions.

An effective international system would have systems to ensure the adequate and reliable marking of all weapons; reliable record-keeping on arms production, possession and transfers; and international arrangements to enable the timely and dependable tracing of lines of supply by relevant authorities.

The French-Swiss initiative focuses on the difficulty of tracing small arms flows of concerns and suggests possible ways to overcome it. Canada strongly support this initiative.

CHILDREN AND SMALL ARMS

Small arms directly threaten the lives of children, often causing death, injury and psycho social trauma. These weapons have also undermined children's access to education and health care-services that are critical to a child's development and well-being. Horrifically, the size and ease of these weapons have even made it possible to serve armed factions as combatants.

In September, 2000 Canada hosted the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held in Winnipeg. The conference concluded that the impact of small arms on children was identified as an immediate priority for international action.

In response, Canada commissioned a study on the impact of small arms on children, produced by a group of NGOs (Biting the Bullet). This study was launched at 2001 UN Conference. Canada hope's that the recommendations of this study will contribute to mitigate the negative effects of small arms on children.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The full participation of NGOs and other civil society elements is vital to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action.