

supplemented by three draft protocols dealing with illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms; smuggling of migrants; and trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Negotiations on the agreement were completed at the end of July 2000. Protocol negotiations are expected to be completed by the end of October 2000. A signing ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 12–15, 2000, in Palermo, Italy.

The agreement likely will not require significant changes to Canadian legislation. The UN will undertake a program of technical assistance for countries which might have difficulty implementing the agreement and will be looking to developed countries to contribute to those efforts.

Terrorism

Canada strongly supports international efforts to eliminate terrorism, but believes that counter-terrorism actions must be consistent with human rights, the rule of law, and protection of fundamental freedoms. Canada has signed 12 and ratified 10 international counter-terrorism agreements. To ensure compliance with UN declarations and G-8 recommendations, Canadian officials have been reviewing Canada's domestic policies on countering terrorism and curbing support for terrorists. Canada is working with its G-8 partners to promote adherence to all of the current counter-terrorism conventions through a joint initiative recommended by the G-8 Counter-Terrorism Experts Group.

The recently negotiated Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, was signed by Canada on Feb. 10, 2000. Negotiations on the Convention on the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, proposed by Russia, are still at an impasse over its military exemption clause. The UN Sixth Committee will start its September 2000 session with a two-week working group to consider an agreement proposed by India, the Comprehensive Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism. Canada cautiously supports this initiative but, like its G-8 partners, is concerned that the group may become sidetracked into discussing virtually non-resolvable issues, such as defining terrorism.

Drugs

There are three UN agreements on drug control, signed in 1961, 1971 and 1988. In June 1998, at the 20th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, Canada and the other countries agreed to a political declaration calling for strengthened international co-operation in fighting drug abuse and illicit trafficking.