

commercial arms dealers and brokers, and for issuing import, export and transit licences for commercial arms.

## ***2.2 Enhance restraint and controls over accumulation and transfer of light arms and associated military equipment***

Southern African countries should exercise restraint in the accumulation of military equipment and maintain and improve their systems controlling arms transfers, taking account of the fact that all states in the region are potential sources, recipients and transit states in the relation to light arms flows. In line with this, countries should consider:

- Establishing and maintaining complete national inventories of arms, ammunition and related equipment held by security forces and other state bodies, to enhance countries' capacity to manage and maintain secure storage of military equipment, and to facilitate review of whether numbers are above requirements for national self-defence.
- Carrying-out a programme across the region to strengthen Southern African countries' national systems for licensing imports, exports and transit of military equipment, including light arms. This includes establishing systems for ensuring licenses are only issued when they fully comply with national criteria and with the full authorisation of government authorities; aiming to harmonise relevant licensing documents and end-use control and (where practicable) monitoring systems; and establishing regional systems to facilitate checks on the validity of documents issued by neighbouring licensing authorities.
- Developing a regional code of conduct that provides agreed criteria governing the import, export or transit of arms (including light or small arms) and ammunition. Such criteria would cover issues related to the situation or character of the recipient such as the impact on regional or internal security; human rights; and an assurance that arms will not be diverted to rebel armies or otherwise undesirable end-users and so on (along the lines of the UNDC and EU Codes of Conduct). Systems of information exchange and consultation systems among SADC countries relating to the implementation of the code of conduct would also need to be established.
- *EU states could provide advice and support where appropriate on the development and operation of a regional code of conduct such as the one proposed above.*

## ***2.3 Improve capacity to monitor and trace light arms possession and transfers***

At present, there are substantial weaknesses in the national and regional capacity to monitor and trace flows of both civilian and military arms, and thus to enforce controls. To rectify this problem, states should consider:

- Establishing harmonised regulations to address the problem of non-unique or ambiguous serial numbers for each item of commercial and military equipment, and to ensure that adequate and accessible records are maintained by manufacturers and dealers to enable subsequent tracing of weapons.
- Establishing agreed systems throughout Southern Africa to ensure that arms are marked at the