

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This publication — *Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography, Update 1996-1998* — is an update of an earlier bibliography on this subject produced in November 1996.¹ The decision to undertake an update of the previous work was prompted by the dramatic increase in documents dealing with small arms and light weapons. While the earlier bibliography covered the period from 1993 to August 1996, this bibliography covers the period September 1996 to early September 1998, providing annotations for additional 102 items. The criteria for inclusion of material in this update are similar to those used for the original *Annotated Bibliography*:

- 1) the item must be published in or after 1996 (publications already cited in the earlier bibliography are not reproduced here) and be publicly available by September 1998;
- 2) the item must offer some substantial analysis or assessment of small arms and light weapons proliferation or of possible responses to this issue (items that merely report on weapons transfers, proliferation control measures, or current events, are not included);
- 3) items dealing primarily with anti-personnel land mines are NOT included (separate bibliographies have been produced on that topic).²

This bibliography reflects the growing complexity of the literature on small arms and light weapons. No attempt has been made to try to include national statements made in international forums or elsewhere; these types of statements are simply too numerous to include. There are, however, a number of tracks or perspectives which can be identified in the literature, though there is much overlap among these themes. First, some of the literature tends to approach the subject from an arms control and disarmament perspective, and involves disarmament forums. For example, extensive commentary has been given in the wake of the report of the 1997 United Nations Small Arms Panel. A second focus has been on disarming, demobilizing and re-integrating ex-combatants in post-conflict situations, for example the work in the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This "development" focus also involves peacebuilding programs in specific regional contexts such as the proposal for a West African moratorium. Third, others,

¹ *Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography*, (Ottawa: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, November 1996). A copy of this earlier bibliography can be obtained while quantities last by writing to: Non-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division (IDA), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0G2. An electronic version is available at the following WebSite:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/foreignnp/disarm/smab12/menu.html>

² *Anti-personnel Land Mines: An Annotated Bibliography*, (Ottawa: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, October 1996), and *Update* (December 1997).