

the need for integrated approaches. In short, future development could be restricted by institutional conservatism. Moreover, we also recognise that the policy making community is moving ahead in efforts to establish a robust intellectual framework that will provide a backdrop for future policy making, at all levels.

Nevertheless, first and foremost, there is a need for academic research and intellectual development, an aspect highlighted in our first report. Beyond this, however, the research community must recognise the difficulties faced by policy makers when it comes to finding the time and opportunities to engage in academic debate. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the research community to ensure that the results of in-depth projects are presented to the policy making community in a more user-friendly fashion than currently exists. Effective policy making and intellectual complexity rarely coexist. Despite the nature of the issues, the contribution of the research community must be more accessible and here the NGO community has a major role to play. Ideally we would wish to see a further co-operation of the divisions between the NGO community, the research community and those responsible for making and implementing policy. If this does not occur there is a significant danger that momentum will be lost. New ideas will not be translated into policy initiatives and there will be inadequate responses to obstacles to progress.

Obversely, policy makers should recognise that the tasks ahead are far from straightforward. We believe they need input and advice from those who have been given the time and space to consider new and eclectic interrelationships in public policy. A frequent complaint is that the research community lacks the resources to be able to develop perspectives that might inform and enhance the development of a suitable and appropriate architecture. We cannot underestimate the complexity of the human security agenda.

For their part policy makers should also be encouraged to listen to practitioners as well as researchers. Whilst the development of policy should be informed by the research community it is also important to listen to those ultimately responsible for implementation. Thus, policies should ideally be informed by those present at the coalface, such as the police and customs, humanitarian aid workers and peace keepers - practitioners should be able to tell governments what will and will not work. For example, tighter controls may only serve to displace smugglers to find new routes that are more difficult to police, as on the border between Greece and Albania which has led to the employment of local shepherds to traffic weapons using inhospitable and certainly uncontrollable ravines and passes.

Policy Initiatives

UN Firearms Protocol

The draft UN Firearms Protocol and the convention to which it will be attached will be the first global instrument focussed on preventing and combating illicit manufacturing of firearms. As such it represents a remarkable step forward. The key elements will be the introduction of an internationally acceptable and appropriate marking regime, and import/export and in-transit licensing system, accurate record keeping, and the strengthening of controls at export points. For those countries that have not yet done so already, the implementation of legislation to criminalise all