

substantially their stockpiles of landmines. We will endeavor to ensure that our various bans on the export of anti-personnel landmines become permanent.

18. Finally, consistent with our pledge in Lyon, we have continued to support international efforts to detect and remove implanted landmines and to provide assistance to the victims of landmines. We have assisted other countries in implementing indigenous, self-sustainable mine awareness and mine clearing programs. Japan, Germany, and Canada have sponsored conferences addressing demining issues, including sharing information on mine detection and clearance technologies, developing indigenous demining capabilities, and extending adequate medical care to mine victims. The European Union has made an enormous contribution in all of these areas. In the coming year, we will continue our efforts to develop the most promising mine detection and clearing technology and to share this technology, as appropriate, with the international community. We will also continue our active demining assistance programs.

Transnational Organized Crime

19. The Senior Experts' Group has overseen follow-up and implementation of the 40 recommendations agreed upon in Lyon to combat transnational organized crime. These activities were designed to focus on practical, legal and operational issues that affect law enforcement, to promote law enforcement capabilities and cooperation between member states, and to suggest steps that all nations could take, on a multidisciplinary basis, to meet the global challenge of transnational organized crime.
20. To strengthen their operational effectiveness, our enforcement experts will consider joint project proposals to target and disrupt major transnational criminal organizations and activities.
21. To help bring criminals to justice, we have agreed upon practical extradition and mutual assistance measures. Our experts are vigorously pursuing arrangements to ensure extradition, transfer for trial or effective domestic prosecution of nationals, and rapid and efficient coordination among law enforcement authorities.
22. To combat illicit firearms trafficking more effectively, we have agreed to promote close operational cooperation among our experts and relevant law enforcement agencies in other states (including to facilitate prompt responses to firearms tracing requests) and to strengthen direct exchange of information with each other, including scientific and technological information for law enforcement purposes.
23. To counter the illegal smuggling of people across our borders, we pledged to assure that our laws and practices effectively target the organized criminal groups involved. Our experts developed centralized points of contact for a more effective and immediate exchange of information on persons who operate alien smuggling networks and on how those networks are organized, while respecting existing information exchange agreements.