

* All states should exercise restraint with respect to the transfer of surplus military weapons and consider the possibility of destroying such weapons.

* All states should ensure the safeguarding of such weapons against loss through theft or corruption, in particular from storage facilities.

Transparency

In addition to a set of principles, states could agree to be more transparent regarding the variety of transactions and actors involved in the legal acquisition of small arms and light weapons. Care should be taken to respect the sovereignty of states and the rights of their citizens to bear arms, if applicable. And if such an approach meets resistance, for the well-known reasons that surfaced during the development of the UN Register of Conventional Arms, requirements for compliance could be adjusted in the direction of more voluntary and gradual compliance. While a Register analogous to the UN Register of Conventional Arms may be too ambitious at this juncture, states could agree to be make transparent the following types of information:

- legitimate trade flow of arms
- legitimate owners of weapons
- legitimate manufacturers and arms traders
- register of weapons with an international serial number upon manufacture
- record of weapons that have been seized, collected and destroyed
- clarification of which types of weapons are strictly for military or police work

National Commissions

Following the example of West Africa and the Organization of American States, national commissions could be established to enhance compliance with treaty principles. These commissions should be suited to the culture of each state, but ideally should include government, civil society and NGOs which can assist in meeting the treaty's requirements. It is well established that the lack of laws and regulations in one state can undermine the regulatory effects of another, encouraging illicit cross-national trafficking in arms. It is also clear that the establishment of an international organization with standards and regulations is not possible. But committing to a national commission, with the goal of enhancing the integration of intra-national and multilateral efforts, will enhance the potential for increased cooperation. These commissions will also put a dent in the arguments of some who will view this campaign as an attempt to put into place an intrusive arms control regime.

Collection and Destruction

Both the Commission on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention and the UN Small Arms Panel emphasized the importance of collecting and destroying weapons surplus to the security needs of the state and its citizens. Given the practical and symbolic importance of this action, it should have a prominent place in any treaty, parallel to the land mine treaty provisos for removing mines and destroying stocks. There are