

security *via* the collection and destruction of over 100,000 small arms and ammunition. One of the goals of the initiative is to build a national capacity for continued indigenous SALW action.<sup>18</sup>

## UN-LiREC

### *Programming and Resource Allocation*

UN-LiREC – the United Nations Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean – was formally established in 1987 and now, functions as a regional extension of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs. The work of UN-LiREC is aimed at, “providing decision makers of the region with in-depth analyses of situations where changes in policy could better human lives and stimulate development”.<sup>19</sup>

In 1999, UN-LiREC established a Regional Clearing-house on Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives. The clearing house was intended to work as a catalyst for action and as a platform for NGOs and other civil society groups to strive toward “the preclusion of firearms-related violence through different preventive actions, the eradication of illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives; the collection and destruction of surplus firearms, ammunition and explosives and the creation of an environment which is more conducive to achieve sustainable development”. Clearing-House activities include:

- policy review conferences and workshops to engage governments;
- seminars and courses to build awareness;
- providing resources to children and NGOS to help prevent violence;
- technical courses and practical disarmament exercises; and,
- publishing educational material.

Recent examples of activities through the Regional Clearinghouse include creation of a database on institutions involved in curbing the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives.<sup>20</sup>

In January 2001, the UN DDA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the OAS establishing the legal framework for cooperation between the two entities with respect to illicit SALW trafficking and designating UN-LiREC and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

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<sup>18</sup>Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, *Quick Start Package*, Security and Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

<sup>19</sup>“What is the UN Lima Regional Centre?” <http://www.unlirec.org/what.html> .

<sup>20</sup>“Regional Clearing-house on Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives.” <http://www.unlirec.org/regional.html> .