

- 1) "to include weapons-related issues as an integral part of peace accords where the United Nations is involved in bringing an end to armed conflicts and in consolidating the peace process to prevent their reemergence" (e.g., store weapons from de-mobilized soldiers);
- 2) "to promote an exchange of national and subregional experiences in the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, and the reintegration of former combatants into civil society at the end of armed conflicts";
- 3) "to encourage harmonization of national legislation to monitor transboundary traffic on illicit arms and the pooling together of information about acts of criminality across national frontiers";
- 4) "to generate a better public understanding of practical disarmament measures intended to maintain and consolidate peace and security in areas that have suffered from armed conflicts through the collection and dissemination of information about the direct and indirect consequences of excessive accumulation, proliferation and use of weapons, including light weapons";
- 5) "to encourage greater transparency in military matters and seek wider adherence to tools of confidence-building" (e.g., periodical reporting of military expenditures).

Replies received in response to paragraph 4 of resolution 51/45 N, requesting the views of Member States on effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, and on concrete proposals concerning measures at the national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms, are also included. The responses of the following countries are included: Canada and the European Union.

I-9. Note by the Secretary-General. *General and Complete Disarmament: Small Arms.* United Nations General Assembly Document A/52/298, August 27, 1997.

The Small Arms Panel was established pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 50/70B of 12 December 1995 which requested that the Secretary-General prepare a report on small arms. The following document is the report of the Small Arms Panel, which identified the following categories:

- "a) The types of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts being dealt with by the United Nations;
- b) The nature and causes of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, including their illicit production and trade;
- c) The ways and means to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons, in particular as they cause or exacerbate conflict."

An overview describes some of the problems caused by small arms and light weapons (e.g., these weapons are increasingly used as the primary instruments of violence in the internal conflicts dealt with by the United Nations). While small arms and light weapons do not cause conflict, the availability of these weapons "contributes towards exacerbating conflicts by increasing the lethality and duration of violence, by encouraging a violent rather than a peaceful