

Project Ploughshares

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Project Ploughshares operates under the belief, shared by all of the sponsoring churches, that war can be avoided, that the use of force in national and international relations is to be minimized, that conflict is to be resolved as much as possible in the interests of justice and without resort to violence, that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons cannot be justified under any circumstances and are contrary to the will of God, and that scarce resources are to be used for human development rather than for arms and the build-up of the capacity to destroy.

The mission of Project Ploughshares, rooted in the faith commitment to seek peace and to pursue it, is to carry out research, analysis, dialogue, and public education on peace and security issues to advance their understanding and knowledge of the roots and causes of armed conflict, and the measures and policies that are conducive to achieving a more peaceful world. The program focuses on the pursuit of policies and practices designed to advance the elimination of nuclear weapons that are a threat to local and global security, to pursue ways of progressively reducing the resort to military force in response to political and social conflict, to advance controls on the supply of arms in order to reduce the availability of the weapons that transform political and social conflict into war and violence, and to support positive measures to build conditions of sustainable peace that enhance the security of people in their homes and communities.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development -- *Teaching conflict and violence prevention*

Ploughshares supports and promotes ways in which the international community can be more effective in intervening for the constructive non-violent resolution of conflict. It is involved in two projects in the Horn of Africa that pursue peace building in a conflict setting.

Security -- *Promoting good governance*

Ploughshares has participated in an international network of NGO's working to promote a Code of Conduct on arms transfers. The proposed code has been endorsed by a group of Nobel Peace Laureates and working with legal experts to set the code into the existing human rights and humanitarian norms and obligations. Ploughshares has participated in an international steering committee exploring the ways in which to support a universal code of conduct to restrain the international arms trade. It is one of the founding organizations of IANSA.

Marking, Record Keeping and Tracing -- *Establishing records*

Ploughshares continues to document and analyze Canadian weapons production and sales, as well as purposes Canadian export control changes to improve Canada's record in restricting military sales to countries with serious human rights violations and/or countries engaged in armed conflict.

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition building*

Ploughshares has worked as consultants to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya in support of preparations for a Kenya sponsored regional conference on small arms which produced the "Nairobi Declaration" and the Tackling Armed Violence in Latin American Societies: The Issue of Small Arms in Rio de Janeiro.

Collecting and Destroying Excess Weapons and Ammunition -- *Voluntary surrender and amnesty*