

## FOREWORD

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### Arms Control and Security Policy Framework

The promotion of international peace and security constitutes a key Canadian foreign policy objective. Indeed, it constitutes one of the three pillars of the Government's comprehensive foreign policy statement of February 7, 1995, *Canada in the World*, namely "the protection of our security, within a stable global environment". To that end, Canada is a major proponent of arms control and disarmament agreements as well as measures to promote transparency and build confidence at the regional and global level.

Canada's policies recognize the right, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, of all nations to provide for their legitimate self-defence. At the same time, however, Canada believes that excessive accumulations of arms can have a de-stabilizing effect on both the immediate regional security situation and global order.

Canada is working actively to promote greater transparency in the trade of conventional weapons. An Annual Report on the Export of Military Goods from Canada has been issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) for each of the past four years, beginning with the year 1990. We were a proponent of the creation of the *United Nations' Register of Conventional Arms*, and a founding contributor. We have consistently advocated its expansion to include other weapons categories.

Canada proposed the creation of the *United Nations' Register of Conventional Arms* and we have contributed data to the Register since its inception in 1991. In 1993, 88 countries made submissions to the Register which records information on imports and exports under seven major categories of conventional weapons systems. Canada is one of a small minority of countries which submit data on military holdings and procurement through national production. This data is beyond the minimum requested by the Register. Canada actively encourages other countries to join us in submitting such data in order to strengthen the Register as a mechanism for promoting transparency and confidence-building as well as restraint.

In addition to our efforts to improve the Register at the United Nations, Canada has taken a leading role in encouraging the development of regional variants of the Register to meet the specific concerns and conditions of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. We are also active in proposing broader mechanisms to address regional security concerns in such forums as the Organization of American States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Regional Forum in order to deal with the root causes of insecurity which often manifest themselves in arms build-ups.

The challenge of dealing with conventional weapons also includes the problem of land-mines. Canada neither makes, nor exports, land-mines. We are working to strengthen the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)* - the only international