

The Role of Regional Organisations in Stemming the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

Findings of a specialist seminar
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1. Executive Summary

On 7-11 July 2003, UN Member States undertook the first official review of progress in implementing the 2001 UN *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*. Statements on national implementation of the *Programme of Action* were made on behalf of 142 states, demonstrating the importance attached by the international community to efforts to stem the illicit small arms trade. International, regional and non-governmental organisations also played an important role in this meeting, underlining the fact that addressing the illicit trade, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons requires concerted action at the global, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.

It has long been recognised that governmental and non-governmental action at the regional and sub-regional levels is particularly important in addressing the global scourge of illicit small arms. Coherent and well-coordinated regional strategies to combat illicit small arms can facilitate the adoption by governments in the region of effective national strategies, which in turn can have a positive impact on grass-roots efforts to address the problem. Yet regional realities differ a great deal, as do the challenges facing regional attempts to address the illicit small arms trade.

There are no mechanisms currently in place that allow regional organisations to share information on how they are dealing with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in their respective areas and thereby to learn from each other's experiences. In order to provide such an opportunity, and to take a first step towards filling this gap, the Geneva Forum brought together senior representatives of 15 regional organisations¹ to participate in a seminar entitled "The Role of Regional Organisations in Stemming the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons: Sharing Experience and Drawing Lessons." The seminar took place on 29-30 January 2004 in Jongny-sur-Vevey on Lake Geneva.

This was the first time that regional organisations had come together in this way to learn from each other's experiences in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The core objectives of the seminar were to:

- Provide a candid appraisal of the current state of the illicit small arms trade, from a regional and sub-regional perspective.
- Highlight the range of activities being carried out at the regional and sub-regional levels to stem the illicit small arms trade.
- Identify best practices in regional and sub-regional approaches to addressing different aspects of the problem.
- Promote cooperation among regional and sub-regional organisations, governments, international organisations and NGOs in implementing the UN Programme of Action.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to thrive in most regions of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, where persistent, ongoing conflicts fuel the demand for weapons. Since before the UN Programme of Action on small

¹ Andean Community, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), League of Arab States, Mercosur, Nairobi Secretariat on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, Organisation of American States (OAS), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Pacific Islands Forum, Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development in Africa (PCASED), Regional Human Security Centre, Jordan, South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO), United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), West African Action Network on Small Arms.

arms was agreed in 2001, regional organisations have been responding to this challenge in a variety of ways – from facilitating legally- and politically-binding agreements between governments to curb the illicit trade, to developing model legislation for use by governments in their respective regions. The lessons learned through regional cooperation to stem the illicit small arms trade helped to shape the 2001 UN Programme of Action on small arms, which in turn puts strong emphasis on the importance of effective regional cooperation on this issue.

The volume and scope of activities being carried out at the regional level to stem the illicit small arms trade is indeed impressive. Nevertheless, it is difficult to measure the impact that all of this activity is having on reducing the volume of illicit guns in circulation. This is an important shortcoming that some regional organisations are only now beginning to address. Without a better knowledge of the impact that regional programmes are having on stemming the illicit small arms trade, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to draw important lessons and to increase the effectiveness of these programmes. Much more work remains to be done, therefore, to develop tools to measure the effectiveness of regional programmes in addressing the problem.

The following additional shortcomings of regional efforts to curb the illicit trade in small arms were also identified:

- The implementation of regional agreements by governments is uneven, leading to the creation of loopholes that can be exploited by suppliers of illicit small arms.
- Donor funding of regional small arms programmes can be inadequate, can have too many conditions attached, and can be uncoordinated.
- Small arms control measures are not adequately integrated into other broad programmes of regional organisations such as poverty eradication, security sector reform, etc.
- The sharing of information within regional organisations on the small arms stockpiles and transfers of its member governments is inadequate and not enough use is made of information that is shared between member governments.
- Coordination on small arms control measures is still too weak between geographically overlapping regional organisations, as well as between the relevant departments of member governments.

Principal recommendations

In order to help overcome these impediments to effective action at the regional level, participants in this seminar made the following principal recommendations for future action:

- *Regional points of contact*
Each regional organisation should identify a single point of contact to be responsible for coordinating the implementation of regional small arms agreements and programmes, as well as the UN Programme of Action on small arms.
- *Operational support tools*
To support the work of these regional points of contact, operational support tools – such as databases, protocols, standard operating procedures, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, etc. – should be developed within each regional organisation.
- *Information flow*
The two-way flow of information within regional organisations – be it requests for assistance from Member States or feedback provided to states by regional focal points – should be improved.

- *Identifying key governments*
Regional organisations should identify and work closely with a sub-set of governments in their region – including particularly badly affected countries – that could act as a driving force for regional work on curbing the illicit small arms trade.
- *Mainstreaming*
Regional organisations should make every effort to integrate the issue of small arms proliferation and misuse into broader organisational priorities such as poverty eradication and development, security sector reform, etc.
- *Cross-regional cooperation*
Regional organisations should use every opportunity to share information, experiences and lessons with other regional organisations on their efforts to curb the illicit small arms trade. Two important opportunities for such an exchange connected with the UN Programme of Action on small arms will be the second Biennial Meeting of States in July 2005 and the first Review Conference in 2006.
- *Harmonising small arms legislation*
Regional organisations should put particular emphasis on harmonising small arms-related legislation in countries in their respective regions by developing broad-based and generic model regulations and legislation for use by member governments.
- *Broadening the stakeholder base*
Regional organisations should improve the quality and sustainability of their small arms work by broadening their stakeholder bases to include other relevant regional and national organisations, civil society groups and technical specialists.

Next steps

By their own admission, the representatives of regional organisations who took part in this seminar benefited greatly from the simple act of taking the time to sit together and compare notes on each organisation's individual efforts to disrupt the illicit small arms trade in their respective regions. This was the first time that such an opportunity had been provided to regional organisations and the representatives invited by the Geneva Forum certainly made the most of it, working diligently over the course of the three days they spent around Lake Geneva² and engaging in stimulating and intense discussions. It can be hoped, therefore, that the contacts they made during this seminar, and the insights they gained, will benefit them in their subsequent work.

Nevertheless, the ground covered in this seminar constitutes only a first step in enhancing cooperation between regional organisations working on stemming the illicit small arms trade. Further work is necessary if an effective and mutually beneficial system of information-sharing and learning is to be put in place. While organisations such as the Geneva Forum can play a useful role in stimulating regional organisations to consider the potential benefits of greater inter-regional cooperation, it is ultimately up to regional organisations themselves to put in place the necessary mechanisms and procedures that would make this possible.

Both the second Biennial Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action in July 2005 and the first Review Conference in 2006 will provide valuable opportunities for continuing this dialogue. These global gatherings will provide a useful space for regional organisations not only to brief governments, international organisations and NGOs on the impressive range of activities in which they are engaged, but also to continue the process begun by this seminar of learning from one another about how to improve the effectiveness of regional efforts to stem the illicit small arms trade.

² The two-day residential seminar in Jongny-sur-vevey was preceded by a public seminar on January 28 at UN Headquarters in Geneva, attended by representatives of government missions, international organisations and NGOs.

2. Ascertaining the Impact of Regional Efforts to Stem the Illicit Small Arms Trade

The first part of the seminar outlined in some detail the nature and extent of the illicit small arms trade in different regions of the world as well as the main activities that were being undertaken at a regional level to curb this trade. A summary of these discussions is contained in Annex 1. Participants then went on to discuss the impact that their work was having on curbing the illicit small arms trade in their respective regions.

Although not easily measured, regional activities do seem to be making progress in a number of areas of the small arms trade. There is a growing knowledge at the regional level of small arms issues, policy-making is increasingly responsive to the demands of civil society, and the need to mainstream small arms issues is increasingly recognised, although this still poses a significant challenge.³

The bulk of the discussion on this issue centred on the difficulty of ascertaining the effect that regional activities were having on curbing the illicit small arms trade. Two examples of monitoring activities, however – in Latin America and South East Europe – demonstrate that it is possible to put mechanisms in place that can give some insight into the effect that regional small arms control programmes are having on the ground.

The difficulty of measuring impact

It is very difficult to measure the impact that regional activities are having on reducing the illicit small arms trade. While it would seem from anecdotal evidence and the sheer scale of the work that is being carried out at the regional level that inroads are indeed being made, measuring changes in the volume of illicit arms circulating in and around regions poses considerable challenges.

There are few hard data on the impact of small arms control measures on development, human security or conflict/crime prevention. One important reason for this is the difficulty of measuring both sides of the equation, but especially of measuring the volume and nature of the illicit small arms trade. As a consequence, it is very difficult to know whether small arms control measures, at the regional level or otherwise, are actually having the desired impact.

While the elaboration of small arms and light weapons control agreements at the regional level is undoubtedly necessary to address the problem, it is not sufficient on its own to stem the illicit trade. Such agreements must first of all be effectively implemented if they are to have any impact and should be reinforced by complimentary activities at the national and international levels.

There are no clear-cut indicators or benchmarks by which to measure successes or failures of regional programs to stem the illicit small arms trade. While it is a simpler matter to frame technical and bureaucratic indicators, the question remains as to how regional small arms programmes are actually making a difference to the lives of those affected by the illicit trade, proliferation and misuse of small arms.

³ From a development standpoint, UNDP is continuing to mainstream small arms issues in its work and, although not yet visible at the operational level, UNDP aims to link the issue of small arms to issues of governance, security sector reform, environment and resource based conflict, and poverty.

Promising initiatives: Latin America and South-East Europe

The Organisation of American States (**OAS**) does have a multilateral reporting mechanism on small arms, albeit with quite general indicators that measure the incorporation of an agreement at the political level but not the overall improvements taking place within the region in the form of reductions in the illicit small arms trade. While success in measuring impacts has been limited in the OAS, mainly due to resource limitations, there can be little doubt that small arms activities undertaken in the region by the OAS, as well as by organisations such as **UNDP** and **Mercosur**, are making a difference.

Further optimism surrounds the Small Arms and Light Weapons Administration (**SALSA**) system, launched in mid-2004 to serve the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (<http://www.salsa-system.org>). SALSA is a web-based computer system that serves as a platform, housing over ten databases related to projects and the implementation of regional agreements, including the United Nations 2001 Programme of Action. Some of these databases contain information on official points of contact in the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean under the scope of activities of the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (**UN-LiREC**).

Other databases regroup information on national firearms legislation, laws, decrees and directives. SALSA also contains information regarding activities of UN-LiREC and its partners – the Organization of American States (**OAS**) Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (**CICAD**) and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (**CIFTA**), as well as press releases, publications, seminars, training courses, and past and up-coming events.

In South-East Europe, **SEESAC** has developed a set of small arms control “standards” whose impact has been observed through the increased number and quality of small arms control interventions in the region. There has also been a noticeable increase in collaboration with NGOs and civil society organisations in small arms control projects, indicating that these organisations are becoming stakeholders and not just sources of information. Positive impacts can also be surmised through the reform of the security sector that has been going on in the region (although its link to small arms control efforts remains weak) and the expansion of small arms control projects in recent years.

These two examples of monitoring activities, especially the SALSA initiative of UN-LiREC and CICAD, demonstrate that it is possible to implement monitoring mechanisms at the regional level that can provide useful feedback to regional organisations on the impact that their programmes are having on the ground. A lot more work needs to be done in this area, however, and across more regions, before it will be possible to monitor in any meaningful way how the lives of people living in affected regions are being improved by regional small arms programmes.

3. Principal Shortcomings of Regional Efforts to Stem the Illicit Small Arms Trade

Participants were asked to appraise critically the efforts of their respective organisations with a view to identifying the principal shortcomings of addressing the illicit small arms trade at the regional level. They came up with the following five areas that would need to be improved upon if regional small arms action is to become more effective.

Weak implementation

The problem at the regional level lies not so much in the development of programmes, rules, laws and norms concerning the trade in small arms, but rather in their effective implementation. This is sometimes due to a lack of overall strategy and focus for dealing with the problem. In addition, regional organisations often have to operate with limited resources and capacity and work with governments whose own resources and capacities are often also inadequate. In some cases, corruption and criminality impede the implementation of legislation. Some countries resist expanding the mandate given to regional organisations to deal with the small arms problem, thus holding them back from doing a better job. The desire of states to maintain good relations with one another, even at the expense of cracking down on illicit trade, is sometimes at the root of this resistance.

Inadequate resources

Donor funding, through its absence or overly-strict conditionality, can also impede regional efforts to address the illicit small arms trade. Within some regional organisations, certain projects have been unable to commence because of the conditions imposed by donors. This can make it difficult to tailor projects to the specific needs of a country. Lack of donor coordination can also lead to problems. For example, securing funds for the management and security of small arms stockpiles is more difficult than securing funds for their destruction, even though both are essential elements of small arms control. Similarly, donors tend not to be as interested in the destruction of ammunition as they are in the destruction of firearms.

Small arms not sufficiently integrated into broader work

Efforts to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons are not sufficiently integrated into the broader programmes of regional organisations that deal with such issues as development; security sector reform; or disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes. "Mainstreaming" the issue of small arms into these and other areas of work would strengthen the overall impact of regional organisations' work on this issue.

Inadequate information-sharing

The sharing of information both within and between regional organisations is not as effective as it might be. There is a general lack of vision when it comes to collecting, analysing and disseminating information. Information-sharing exercises do take place within some regional organisations, but often not enough use is made of the information collected. The sensitivity of information on small arms, and the desire of many governments to keep it confidential, is one of the main reasons for this. The result, however, can be the absence of quite basic

knowledge, such as, for example, the physical condition of ammunition stockpiles in a particular area.

Weak coordination

Geographically overlapping regional organisations often do not adequately coordinate their small arms activities, which can lead to a duplication of efforts. Similarly, regional and sub-regional organisations often have trouble coordinating the division of labour between the various departments of member governments. The lack of harmonisation and uniformity of controls within a region is also problematic. Moreover, small arms may not be a priority for all Member States of a regional organisation, and even when they are, the context of the problem may differ significantly between states.

4. Principal Lessons Learned

In a series of smaller workshops, participants were asked to outline the principal lessons that their organisations have learned in attempting to curb the illicit small arms trade in their respective regions. The following points were thought to be particularly important.

- A good way to generate the political will that is essential to the success of regional small arms programmes is by first focusing on relatively non-controversial areas for cooperation and building from there.
- It is essential to encourage cooperation between national law enforcement agencies on small arms control activities, in particular between intelligence agencies, customs and border control officials, and police forces.
- Not all small arms control activities must include all countries in a region. In some instances, bi-lateral or “mini-lateral” cooperation can be more effective. Regional organisations can play an important role in identifying potential partnerships and facilitating such cooperation.
- Short-term amnesty programs to stimulate weapons collection rarely work. Appropriate incentives to surrender weapons, both at the individual and community levels, have to be found. For communities that benefit, directly or indirectly, from the illicit small arms trade, appropriate alternative and sustainable sources of income have to be substituted.

5. Principal Recommendations

Based on the shortcomings they had identified and the lessons they had learned, participants were then asked to make recommendations on how regional efforts to stem the illicit small arms trade could be improved in the future. Participants agreed that the following points constituted priority areas for action in the short- and medium-term.

- Each region and sub-region should identify a single Point of Contact on matters relating to small arms control. This person or body should have responsibility for coordinating regional activity and monitoring the implementation by Member States of regional small arms programmes. The Regional Point of Contact should identify and develop partnerships with key individuals and institutions within member governments, international organisations and civil society in the region.
- High priority should be given to developing operational support tools for use by Regional Points of Contact, regional and national small arms programme managers, etc. Examples of such tools are databases, protocols, standards, feedback and evaluation mechanisms, etc.
- Mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate the flow of information and requests for support between Member States (particularly their small arms focal points) and regional coordinators and program managers. It is important to ensure that information flows smoothly in both directions.
- Regional organisations should identify the governments in the region that are most committed to addressing the illicit small arms trade and are likely to act as driving forces for regional work. It is equally important to ensure that those countries that are most affected by illicit small arms play an active role in formulating responses to the problem.
- Emphasis should be put on integrating small arms programmes into other relevant issue-areas with high priority at the regional level; e.g., poverty eradication and development, security sector reform, etc. ("mainstreaming").
- Regional organisations should create a forum within which to review regularly the progress of regional small arms programmes, with a special emphasis on evaluating their impact. An effort should be made in this regard to develop mechanisms for sharing information, lessons learned and best practices between regions; bearing in mind, however, that approaches that work in one region may not necessarily work in another where the social, political, legal and cultural realities are different.
- The reform of national small arms legislation should be designed "by the region for the region." The standardisation of national legislation across regions is very difficult due to differences in national security concerns, legal and social systems, and capacity. For this reason, regional organisations should focus on the harmonisation, rather than on the standardisation, of national small arms legislation. In this context, the development by regional organisations of broad-based and generic model regulations and legislation can be quite useful.
- Regional organisations should make every effort to improve the quality and sustainability of their small arms work by broadening its stakeholder base through the inclusion of other relevant regional and national organisations, civil society groups and technical specialists.

6. Looking Ahead: Working Cooperatively at the Regional Level

Further developing small arms work at the regional level

The following is an outline of the ways in which regional organisations plan to develop their small arms programmes over the short- and medium-term.

In Africa, **SARPCCO** aims to develop and improve the ability of its officers to deal with small arms trafficking across borders. The **Nairobi Secretariat** aims to increase the harmonisation of its activities in order to prevent duplication, and to promote more intensive information sharing between regions, for example by cooperating more closely with **SADC**. **WAANSA** aims to further strengthen ties with civil society and will intensify its interaction with parliamentarians. Revising the Code of Conduct on Light Weapons is a priority for **PCASED**, which aims to raise the moratorium on small arms imports from the level of a political agreement to a legally-binding commitment that includes provisions for marking and tracing, registration, civilian use and destruction, and an implementing plan of action.

In Latin America, in order to improve cooperation and information sharing, the **Andean Community** has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with **UNLiREC** and aims to do the same with **UNDDA**. The **OAS** plans to increase information sharing with other organisations. Although there is ongoing communication, the OAS is particularly interested in mainstreaming small arms issues and in increasing contacts and interaction at the sub-regional level. There are high expectations for **SALSA**, whose online export and import licensing system will act as a tracking mechanism that the OAS hopes will eventually cover the hemisphere.

In the Caribbean, **CARICOM** aims to develop its interaction with officials from the supply side of the small arms equation, in particular to engage in dialogue with manufacturers about the difficulties encountered when tracing illicit small arms.

In the Arab World, though the issue of small arms and light weapons is relatively new in the League of Arab States, the organisation did create a Disarmament Department in 2001 and does recognise that more attention needs to be devoted to this issue. Many of its Member States now have national small arms focal points and the organisation is examining the possibility of appointing a regional focal point.

In the United Nations, the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (**CASA**) mechanism is becoming more active and looks likely to develop further. **UNDP** is working closely with **UNDDA** and **UNIDIR** on building the capacity of states to report on their implementation of the UN Programme of Action. They also plan to keep working with regional organisations in the run-up to the 2006 Review Meeting.

Promoting inter-regional cooperation on small arms

A small number of innovative cooperative arrangements has already demonstrated that regional organisations can benefit greatly from dialogue and information sharing with other regional organisations on the issue of combating the illicit small arms trade. Examples include cooperation between **SaferAfrica** and the **Andean Community**, and **ASEAN's** expanding cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (**SAARC**).

There are many similarities between the challenges faced by regional organisations in stemming the illicit small arms trade and it is constructive to learn how they are being dealt with elsewhere. In this regard, there is scope for the further development both of cooperation

among organisations operating in the southern hemisphere and between Southern and Northern organisations.

There is also scope for more global coordination between regional organisations dealing with small arms issues. The Geneva Forum's initiative to bring representatives of regional organisations from all over the world together for the first time could serve as a starting-point for similar exchanges in the future. Participants were in agreement that regional organisations should take it upon themselves to organise similar exchanges and, in particular, should seek to organise regional side-events at global small arms meetings such as, for example, the second Biennial Meeting of States scheduled for 2005 and the first Programme of Action review meeting in 2006.

Specific suggestions included the sharing of information through a specially-created email distribution list (possibly similar to the one created by the Geneva Forum when organising this meeting) and the suggestion that each regional organisation should consider hosting meetings of other regional organisations on quite specific and technical aspects of small arms control as a way of enhancing their outreach and learning from the experiences of other organisations.

7. The Relevance of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms

The United Nations *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* reflects the commitment of UN Member States to tackle the illicit small arms trade at the national, regional and global levels. The Programme of Action devotes 8 paragraphs specifically to highlighting necessary action at the regional level, and includes commitments to:

- Establish points of contact within regional organisations to aid in the implementation of the PoA.
- Negotiate legally-binding regional instruments and implement those that already exist.
- Establish and strengthen regional moratoria on small arms production and/or transfers and create regional action programmes.
- Enhance cooperation between law enforcement, border and customs agencies in the regions.
- Encourage the creation and strengthening of relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures.
- Create regional mechanisms to promote safe and effective stockpile management.
- Support national disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes.
- Develop measures to enhance transparency.

The UN Programme of Action also contains a detailed annex outlining some of the numerous initiatives that have already been undertaken at the regional and sub-regional levels to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This annex gives an indication of the

wealth of activity that is underway at the regional level to stem the illicit small arms trade. It also underlines the important fact that regional approaches to stemming the illicit small arms trade not only pre-date the UN Programme of Action but also, in many instances, go beyond its provisions.

Work at the regional level predates and shaped the PoA...

Many regional initiatives, such as the **OSCE** Document on Small Arms, were developed while the UN Programme was being conceptualised. Similarly, the 2001 **Nairobi Secretariat/EAPCCO** draft Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa contained elements similar to those later expressed in the UN Programme of Action (and other parts of the draft Protocol were brought into line with the Programme of Action once it was agreed).

Preparations for the 2001 conference that created the UN Programme of Action allowed for regional positions on small arms control to be further developed. For example, the countries of Southern Africa met prior to the 2001 conference to develop common positions, many of which were reflected in the finalised Programme of Action. The sense of ownership that this created naturally developed into a desire to implement the Programme of Action that was agreed.

Thus, while the Programme of Action has undoubtedly promoted and facilitated small arms work at the regional level, such work had already been taking place and would no doubt have continued even without a UN agreement. The advantage of the UN Programme of Action is that it does not limit the range of actions open to regional organisations that want to make progress on stemming the illicit small arms trade.

...but the PoA now provides a useful framework for regional action

When looking at the various small arms activities taking place within the regions today, the influence of the UN Programme of Action on small arms becomes evident. The Programme of Action has acted as a kind of political blueprint that has helped regional organisations to maintain a strong focus on small arms issues and to move forward with their work in this area. For example:

- It provided the **Andean Community** with a range of issues to discuss that, in the absence of the Programme of Action, its Member States might have been slow to address.
- For the **Regional Human Security Centre** in Jordan, the Programme of Action opened the door to addressing small arms issues in the Middle East by providing a reference point around which to manoeuvre.
- The **League of Arab States** interpreted the UN Programme of Action as a proactive framework propelling the issue forward.
- The Programme of Action provided **UNDP** with the opportunity to open discussions with global and national stakeholders on streamlining small arms initiatives in their development work.
- The Programme made it easier for **UN-LIREC** to secure donor support; to emphasise the importance of **CIFTA**, and helped give a boost to small arms activities in the field.

The need for further strengthening of the PoA

While implementation of its provisions is an obvious priority, there was broad agreement that the content of the Programme of Action does contain room for improvement. In this regard, the second Biennial Meeting of States in 2005 provides an opportunity not only for a comprehensive review of how well the Programme of Action has been implemented, but also to discuss ways of further strengthening the Programme's provisions.

It will be important, however, to strike the right balance between implementation of what has already been agreed, on the one hand, and the further development of the Programme, on the other, in order to maintain the impressive political will and momentum that has built up around the UN Programme of Action. The second Biennial Meeting should also attempt to strike a balance between the political process and how to ensure that regional agreements are implemented, and it should include more input from the 'field' in its discussions.

Annex I

The State of the Illicit Small Arms Trade and How it is Being Addressed at the Regional Level

Latin America and the Caribbean

The problem in the region

There is a strong demand for small arms in most parts of Latin America and the Caribbean due to a general increase in criminality and illicit cross-border activities in many areas. It is estimated that about 90% of all illicit small arms flowing into the region enter through Colombia, Panama and Guatemala. Only about half a million of an estimated two million arms in Central America are registered. The proliferation and misuse of small arms in the region manifests itself in particular as street crime and is driven to a large extent by organised crime networks.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean is vulnerable to flows of illicit small arms and light weapons from central and North America in particular. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase of illicit small arms imports from the US states of Oregon, California and Texas. In many rural areas, community leaders are arming local militias. The surplus of weapons that this creates has led to border-trade in arms for food. Thefts and diversions from state-controlled armouries constitute one of the most important sources of illicit small arms in the region.

Illicit homemade firearms are increasingly becoming a problem for governments in the region, since existing legislation often does not cover craft production. A number of other factors have also contributed to an increase in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the region, namely corruption in army and police forces, the degraded status of law enforcement in general, an increase in private security organisations, and a lack of effective measures to regulate small arms brokers, particularly those operating offshore.

What is being done at the regional level?

In short, the illicit small arms trade is thriving in Latin America and the Caribbean. While a lot of good work is being carried out to address this, much of it by regional organisations, a lot remains to be done.

Some countries in the region have strengthened their legislation relating to small arms. **Paraguay**, for example, has some of the most stringent legislation on the marking of firearms, but does not have sufficient capacity to enforce it fully. The Member States of **Mercosur** are in the process of agreeing on a Memorandum of Understanding to share and exchange information on small arms and related issues.

A significant amount of cooperation between organisations in the region, as well as with organisations from other regions, is already underway in Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, the **Andean Community** is cooperating closely with the **Nairobi Secretariat**, **SaferAfrica** and the European Union (**EU**) in order to benefit from the experiences of these regional organisations in finding effective ways of addressing the illicit small arms trade.

Likewise, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (**UN-LIREC**), the Organisation of American States (**OAS**),

and **Mecosur** are involved in cooperative projects to develop small arms control programmes in the region. UN-LiREC and the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), for example, are cooperating to develop training resources for parliamentary advisers, national points of contact on small arms, and law enforcement officials. In addition, UN-LiREC, with support from the "Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana" (**SICA**), has agreed with the Brazilian, Paraguayan and Chilean firearms industries to develop a new marking system for firearms and grenades.

Most governments in Latin America and the Caribbean are interested in improving the management of their small arms stockpiles and in increasing their capacity to destroy surplus or collected weapons. In late 2003, the Government of the Republic of **Paraguay** carried out the destruction of approximately 3,000 firearms and 15 tons of ammunition and explosives that had been stockpiled in the government's War Material Directorate. The destruction was carried out with the support of numerous organisations – including **UN-LiREC**, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (**CICAD**) of the **OAS**, the Small Arms and Demobilization Unit of **UNDP**, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (**RCMP**) – and with the cooperation of a number of government departments – including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Education.

A number of activities and initiatives have also been taking place specifically in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Community (**Caricom**) has established a ministerial body that consults on small arms and related issues and is advised by heads of law enforcement agencies. Caricom has also established a Task Force on Regional Security comprising Caricom Member States, law enforcement agencies and NGOs. One of the objectives of the task force is to study the source of the small arms problem. It has issued recommendations aimed at reducing criminality and poverty, increasing the capacity of the police to prevent criminal activity, and establishing judiciary and law enforcement training mechanisms.

Caricom also intends to establish a Weapons Intelligence Unit to target and trace weapons used within the region. In addition, it intends to promote a public awareness and education programme to help affected communities deal with the problem of small arms proliferation and misuse.

The Pacific

The problem in the region

In the Pacific Island Region, the ready availability and lack of control over small arms and light weapons has a significant impact on social and economic livelihoods, and potentially on political stability. Although, unlike some other affected regions, the Pacific region does not suffer from large-scale transfers of automatic weapons, it does face real problems with:

- The availability of old stocks of often basic weapons in the civilian community.
- The lack of infrastructure for effective weapons accountancy and stockpile management.
- Incomplete legislation for licensing and registration of small arms and light weapons, and insufficient capacity to fully enforce this legislation.

Since the adoption of the UN Program of Action in 2001, the **Small Arms Survey** has completed a comprehensive study of the small arms problem in the Pacific Island region. The results are contained in a report, "Small Arms and the Pacific", released in March 2003 at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, **Fiji**. The report provides a comprehensive overview of legislation, the extent of stockpiles and trafficking, social and economic impacts, and regional cooperation. It finds that lack of capacity remains a core problem in establishing and enforcing legislation, that many hundreds of thousands of illegal firearms may exist in the Pacific region, and that the combination of these factors can be socially, economically and

politically destabilising. The report's comprehensive approach and practical recommendations demonstrate the positive and proactive role that NGOs play in helping governments to understand and address small arms issues, particularly by filling capacity gaps.

What is being done at the regional level?

Pacific Island countries have long recognized the dangers posed by small arms and have instigated cooperative regional initiatives to address them. These measures have been led by the **Pacific Islands Forum** Regional Security Committee (FRSC), which has developed measures for a common regional approach to weapons control, covering the import, manufacture, possession, and use of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

The efforts of the FRSC have facilitated the development of two pivotal documents – the *Honiara Initiative* and the *Nadi Declaration*. These provide a comprehensive framework for the Pacific Island countries to better control small arms through, for example, implementation of national licensing measures to regulate ownership, export control and customs procedures. Furthermore, at the 2001 **Pacific Islands Forum** meeting, members agreed to the *Biketawa Declaration*, which provides an overarching mechanism for Forum countries to discuss and address regional security issues in a fully cooperative and consultative manner.

Drawing on the *Nadi Framework*, the **Pacific Islands Forum** has made good progress in developing model legislation for members to use as a basis for implementing and enforcing, in their national jurisdictions, the measures contained in the Framework. After many years of consultation and work, the model Weapons Control Bill was tabled at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting held in Auckland, **New Zealand** in August 2003, with a strong recommendation that member countries adopt it.

In keeping with the Pacific spirit of cooperation, there has been a range of other activities that have contributed to regional consultation and information exchange in the small arms field. Most recently, in January 2003, **Japan** and **Australia** co-hosted a regional workshop in Tokyo to enhance cooperation on legal and institutional issues, on the practical enforcement of laws, and on effective stockpile management and safekeeping. As a practical outcome of the workshop, Pacific Island countries agreed to advance their efforts to conclude model legislation. Australia and **New Zealand** have also hosted meetings to deal with regional small arms and disarmament issues. These activities have been additional to the regular suite of security-related meetings that occur under the framework of the **Pacific Islands Forum**.

Pacific countries have demonstrated their willingness to face small arms challenges. By underpinning the global framework of the Program of Action with region-specific initiatives like the *Nadi Framework*, **Pacific Island Forum** countries are slowly building the required institutional infrastructure – but are not blind to the remaining challenges.

Southeast Asia

The problem in the region⁴

In Southeast Asia, illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons is seen as constituting a combination of threats to countries in the region, obstructing socio-economic development, threatening the ability of states to govern effectively, making states more vulnerable to terrorism and organised crime, and threatening the security of civil society. Southeast Asia is particularly susceptible to small arms proliferation problems for a number of reasons.

The region is ethnically, culturally and politically very diverse and has experienced decades of post-colonial violence. There are a number of ongoing intra-state conflicts in the region – including in Burma, Indonesia and the Philippines – which fuel the demand for weapons by non-state actors. The destabilising nature of the proliferation and misuse of small arms has been most evident in places like Timor, Maluku and the Southern Philippines, but illegal guns also create serious social problems in other ASEAN states.

Southeast Asia's long maritime and continental frontiers are difficult to monitor, especially since many countries in the region lack the capacity to police them effectively and thereby interdict arms traffickers. In many cases, states store national inventories of small arms in insecure and poorly managed facilities. The theft of these weapons fuels small arms trafficking in the region.

South East Asia has ready stockpiles of existing weapons. The region has several post-conflict states, where large numbers of military small arms and light weapons can be obtained. Weapons left over from the wars in Vietnam and Laos as well as imported arms from China and the Middle East are also finding their way to insurgents, criminals and terrorists throughout the region.

Most weapons are legally produced and/or imported into Southeast Asia and then at some point diverted to illicit circuits. Many states in the region lack adequate domestic gun control legislation and enforcement, which makes such diversion possible.

Compared to the rest of the world, there is little illegal production of small arms and light weapons in Southeast Asia. Few insurgent groups have the ability to make their own arms and the Southern Philippines is the only area where illegal production is a significant means through which unauthorised actors acquire military weapons.

What is being done at the regional level?

The issue of small arms and light weapons was first raised on a regional level at the 1997 **ASEAN** Ministerial Meeting held in Malaysia. This meeting emphasised the need for regional cooperation in combating transnational crime, and linked efforts to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons to broader efforts to combat terrorism, trafficking in persons and drugs, money laundering and piracy.

At the 2nd **ASEAN** Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, held in 1999, Ministers adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, which includes a section on arms smuggling. Under this Plan of Action, and the 2002 Work Programme that was subsequently developed to implement it, ASEAN Member States undertake, *inter alia*, to:

⁴ Supplementary information for this section has been drawn from the following sources: David Capie, "Small arms production and transfers in Southeast Asia" Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University, 2002; Katherine Kramer, "Legal Controls on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Southeast Asia" Small Arms Survey Occasional Paper No. 3, 2001; "Southeast Asia and the Pacific," International Action Network on Small Arms, www.iansa.org; "Curbing the Demand for Small Arms: Focus on Southeast Asia," Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Quaker United Nations Office, 2003.

- Create a compilation of Member States' national laws and regulations on arms smuggling.
- Study trends and *modus operandi* governing arms smuggling in the region and record these in a database.
- Enhance information exchange and cooperation among ASEAN Chiefs of National Police (**ASEANPOL**), customs and immigration officials and legislators.
- Create a database of international treaties and agreements pertaining to arms smuggling.
- Harmonise systems for marking arms and ammunition.
- Cooperate in exchanging intelligence both within ASEAN and with organisations such as Europol and Interpol.
- Strengthen law enforcement capabilities through comprehensive domestic legislation against illicit arms trafficking.
- Share experience and best practice on the investigation, monitoring and reporting of illicit arms smuggling.
- Create procedures for Member States to declare surplus arms destroyed, missing and lost from government stockpiles.
- Enhance information exchange with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, regional organisations, UN Agencies and other international organisations, particularly on the identities, movements and activities of known transnational criminal organisations involved in arms smuggling.
- Implement the UN Programme of Action on small arms.

The first time that **ASEAN** addressed small arms as a separate item was in May 2000, at the First Regional Seminar on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, jointly organised by **Indonesia** and the **UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific** in cooperation with **Japan**. This was a regional preparatory meeting for the 2001 UN Conference on small arms. All ASEAN Member States attending the workshop reiterated their support for strengthening law enforcement, intelligence-sharing, border and customs controls, and exchange of information.

In dealing with the issue of transnational crime, including the illicit small arms trade, **ASEAN** also cooperates with a number of Dialogue Partners such as **China**, the **Republic of Korea**, **Japan**, the **EU** and the **United States**.

Sub Saharan Africa

The problem in the region⁵

In sub-Saharan Africa, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons manifests itself in a variety of ways, including through inter/intra state conflict; religious, ethnic and chieftaincy disputes; as well as widespread livestock theft and other criminal activities. The indiscriminate proliferation and misuse of small arms have exacerbated the cycle of armed conflict, state-collapse, genocide, crime, and social & economic degradation in the region. Similarly, the availability of illicit small arms to criminal groups in Southern and Eastern Africa in particular is exacerbating trans-national organised crime in the region.

⁵ Additional information for this section was drawn from the following sources: "Small Arms Survey 2003: Development Denied", Oxford University Press, 2003; International Action Network on Small Arms, www.iansa.org; Abdul Omar, "Small Arms in Africa," Ploughshares Monitor, September 2000.

The Small Arms survey estimates that there are about 30 million firearms in sub-Saharan Africa, seventy-nine percent of which are in civilian hands, 19 percent in the hands of the military and police, and 2 percent in hands of insurgents. While the number of small arms, both legal and illicit, in the hands of civilians may be up to 24 million, the total number of illicit military-style guns in sub-Saharan Africa is unlikely, according to the Small Arms Survey, to be more than one million.

Some weapons have their roots in South Africa's destabilisation campaign in Angola and Mozambique in the apartheid era. Others originate from the Cold War armament programmes by which the United States and the Soviet Union armed African dictators to engage in proxy wars. Additional weapons can be traced to producer states – including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria – to fresh supplies from the former Eastern Bloc and East Asia, theft from government sources and licensed owners, black markets and, though few in number, the work of independent skilled craftsmen.

Firearms have particularly fuelled overlapping and uncontained conflicts in such places as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as non-conflict related crime and violence. Small arms remain the primary weapons of intra- and inter-communal feuds, local wars, armed insurrections, armed rebel activities and terrorism throughout the region.

Some of the main challenges currently facing the African region include the slow pace of establishing national and regional points of contact on small arms, the failure, with few exceptions, to develop effective national plans of action to address the illicit small arms trade, and widespread corruption that facilitates the illicit trade. A positive development that bodes well for the future, however, is the increasing interaction between governments and civil society in addressing the problem.

What is being done at the regional level

The Southern African Development Community (**SADC**), the Economic Community of West African States (**ECOWAS**) and the **Nairobi Secretariat** have established national and regional points of contact or special units specifically dealing with small arms issues in their respective sub-regions. The Nairobi Secretariat, for example, which serves 10 countries in East Africa, has already established 5 national focal points, with a further 2 likely to be appointed in the near future. This process has been aided by the development of a set of "standard operating procedures" by the Nairobi Secretariat for the appointment of small arms focal points. The Nairobi Secretariat is also developing a training curriculum on small arms control aimed at civil society organisations, small arms control practitioners and senior small arms project managers.

SADC and the **Nairobi Secretariat** have both concluded legally binding instruments aimed at curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons – respectively the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials (2001), and the Nairobi Protocol for Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa (2003).

The regional police chiefs' cooperation organisations of Eastern Africa and Southern Africa (**EAPCCO** and **SARPCCO**) are further important mechanisms for curbing illicit small arms trafficking in the region, since it is violent crime, rather than political violence, that constitutes the primary motivation for tackling the small arms problem in the region. SARPCCO has been spearheading small arms control efforts in Southern Africa since its creation and was the organisation that drafted the SADC Firearms Protocol. SARPCCO conducts quarterly region-wide operations to interdict illicit small arms flows and cooperates regularly with **SaferAfrica** and the Institute for Security Studies (**ISS**) to conduct capacity building trainings.

The **Nairobi Secretariat** collaborates with the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (**EAPCCO**) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (**IGAD**) on

small arms control measures. The Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (**PCASED**), a joint project of **ECOWAS** and the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), has assisted 13 of the 15 ECOWAS Member States to establish national commissions to oversee the implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium on Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons. These national commissions have yet to become fully operational, however, and more political will is needed if the moratorium is to be effective.

The Arab World

The problem in the region⁶

The US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 dramatically altered the profile of small arms distribution in Iraq, with significant consequences likely to affect the region as a whole. The Small Arms Survey estimates that the pre-war civilian arsenal of 3.2 million small arms was supplemented by an additional 4.2 million former military weapons that became absorbed by Iraqi society as a result of the collapse of the forces of Saddam Hussein. With 7-8 million small arms now in the possession of Iraqi civilians – equal to 30 civilian firearms for every 100 people – Iraq has moved from being a typically-armed Arab society to being one of the more heavily armed places in the world. It is very likely that this newly-created large civilian stockpile will have important ramifications for the illicit small arms trade in the region as a whole.

In other parts of the Arab World, small arms are generally not held or used in great numbers by civilians. Governments rely on them for national security and civilians possess them for traditional purposes, for self-protection and, sometimes, for criminal activities. Arab governments have traditionally preferred to stick to a hierarchy of security issues that puts Israel and nuclear weapons first and plays down the effects of small arms proliferation. Until quite recently, the Arab World did not perceive its small arms problem to be a significant humanitarian issue, nor did it view small arms proliferation to be a seriously destabilizing influence.

There is an insistence in the Arab World that the “root causes” of small arms proliferation must be addressed. For Arab governments, this means dealing with the main political conflict (Israel), the main humanitarian issue (Palestinian refugees) and with poverty and underdevelopment in the region.

Gun violence in the Arab World (excepting Iraq) would seem to be declining as governments consolidate their control over Islamist insurgents and centralise state authority. Domestic security fears have also led several Arab governments to assert greater control over small arms proliferation. But states that are striving to regulate small arms often see their efforts undermined by inadequate control measures in other Arab countries.

At the national level, states are challenged by the complex and multidimensional nature of the small arms issue. One key challenge is effective policing, including the policing and control of the long, sparsely populated borders shared by many States in the region. Another challenge, common to many other regions, is that of the capacity of states to enforce small arms control measures. Another is the development and effective implementation of

⁶ Additional information for this section was drawn from the following sources: “Small Arms Survey 2004: Rights at Risk,” Oxford University Press, 2004; “Small Arms Survey 2003: Development Denied,” Oxford University Press, 2003; “Regional Workshop on Small Arms in the Arab Region: National and Regional Measures, May 6-7, 2001,” Independent Report by The American Friends Service Committee; “The Implementation, by the Arab States, of the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons,” Co-Chairs’ summary, December 2003;

legislation to regulate the small arms trade. Although there is effective customs cooperation in place between many Arab States, there is a need to increase effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this important area.

What is being done in the region?

The **League of Arab States** addresses small arms issues in the context of terrorism; conflict and post conflict reconstruction; and social, tribal and cultural attitudes towards firearms. Some Arab states have relatively good administrative and regulatory procedures on small arms. Nevertheless, the Arab-Israeli conflict and instability in the Horn of Africa have exacerbated terrorism and the illicit trafficking of small arms in the region.

Signatories of the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (1998), have made commitments to improve systems of transfer, import, export, storage and use of weapons, ammunition and explosives, and to take further steps to monitor border crossings and customs-posts in order to prevent illicit movements. Since the signing of the Convention, the Secretariat of the Interior Ministers' Council of the **League of Arab States** has held annual meetings on counter terrorism and related issues.

The **League of Arab States** is coordinating with relevant United Nations institutes and other international organisations regarding the collection of weapons in **Somalia**. It has also acknowledged the indispensable role that civil society plays in supporting small arms control in the region. Civil society has been recognised as a crucial agent for information gathering and exchange, research and public engagement on security issues on small arms, particularly relating to women and children.

On 16-18 December 2003 the **League of Arab States** and the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (**UNDDA**) organised a conference in Cairo, **Egypt**, on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms in the Arab World. The League of Arab States intends to build on the outcome of this meeting to develop an effective regional policy to address the illicit small arms trade in the region.

Europe

The problem in the region⁷

Most of the world's small arms exports emanate from the participating states of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (**OSCE**), a regional organisation that, as well as having large producers such as the United States and the Russian Federation as members, also encompasses states that are adversely affected by the illicit small arms trade, particularly in the Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe.

Levels of gun violence vary across Europe. Estonia, Northern Ireland, Finland, Switzerland and France have been found to have some of the highest gun death-rates in the developed world. Others, on the other hand, such as the Netherlands, England and Scotland, have some of the lowest.

Europe – western, central and eastern – is home to significant arms production. The Small Arms Survey estimates that, in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 526 companies in 38 countries produce small arms or their components. One of the most pressing arms issues in Central and Eastern Europe is the large number of weapons

⁷ Additional information for this section was drawn from the following sources: "Small Arms Survey 2004: Rights at Risk," Oxford University Press 2004; The International Action Network on Small Arms, www.iansa.org.

remaining from the Cold War military build-up, which have found markets both within the region and elsewhere, including in Western Europe.

Together, the Balkan nations (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro) contain an estimated 8 million small arms among a population of 24 million. Many of these weapons originated from the former Soviet Union, China, Chile, Iran and Singapore. Collection programs have begun to reduce this stockpile, but the final disposition of confiscated weapons is often unknown, as many have not been destroyed.

The difficult transition to free markets in the Baltic and Central European states has led those countries to sell many of their existing weapons to offset economic growing pains, and to obtain new weapons that meet NATO requirements. This is a particular problem in Belarus, Bulgaria, Russia and the Ukraine.

In South-Eastern Europe, the uncontrolled proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms has fuelled crime and insecurity, exacerbated conflict and undermined post-conflict peace building efforts. It has also undermined the ability of governments to enforce a reliable and consistent legal framework for small arms control. Illicit trafficking in small arms is facilitated by lax border security and border management and is driven by highly organised criminal groups.

What is being done in the region?

The small arms issue was first raised in the **OSCE** in 1996, and in 2000 it launched the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which commits OSCE States to introducing controls on the manufacture, export and stockpiling of small arms, and provides for information exchange on the marking, manufacture, export and destruction of weapons. In 2003, the OSCE produced a Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons, providing guidance to Member States at the strategic level on:

- National controls over manufacture
- Marking, record-keeping and traceability
- National procedures for stockpile management and security
- National control of brokering activity
- Export control
- Definition and indicators of a surplus
- National procedures for destruction
- Small arms and light weapons in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) processes

The **OSCE** has undertaken 2 exercises in information sharing based on the 2000 OSCE Document on Small Arms – one on stockpile management in 2001 and one on export, import and transfer of small arms in 2002. In addition, the OSCE has conducted a series of training workshops in its five Central Asian Member States – **Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kirgistan** and **Kazakhstan**. These workshops covered a range of topics including the secure storage of small arms stockpiles and the destruction of surplus weapons.

The South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (**SEESAC**) has been the leading player in combating the illicit trade in small arms in South Eastern Europe. SEESAC has provided operational and technical assistance as well as management support in the formulation and implementation of small arms control and reduction measures in **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRM), Moldova, Romania** and **Serbia and Montenegro**.

SEESAC has developed and implemented the “Regional Micro-Disarmament Standards/Guidelines” and a “Small Arms and Light Weapons Awareness Support Pack”, which provide a framework response at the operational level across all of the functional areas of SALW control. They are not very regionally specific and could be used globally to support the operational response. SEESAC has also organised regional training seminars on small arms for local media and NGOs, and has developed a Regional small arms Database for Projects, Collection, Destruction and Illicit Street Prices. In addition, it has assisted **UNDP** country offices in **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macodonia, and Serbia and Montenegro** in weapons collection and destruction programmes as well as other small arms control initiatives.

Annex II

Organisations participating in the seminar

1. Andean Community
2. Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
3. Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
4. League of Arab States
5. Mercosur
6. Nairobi Secretariat on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa
7. Organisation of American States (OAS)
8. Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
9. Pacific Islands Forum
10. Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development in Africa (PCASED)
11. Regional Human Security Centre, Jordan
12. South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)
13. Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO)
14. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC)
15. West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)

Annex III

Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASEANPOL	Association of South East Asian Nations Chiefs of National Police
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CASA	Coordinating Action on Small Arms
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CIFTA	Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials
EAPCCO	Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Committee
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FYRM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
ISS	Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
OAS	Organisation of American States
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PCASED	Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development in Africa
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALSA	Small Arms and Light Weapons Administration System
SARPCCO	Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation
SEESAC	South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
SICA	Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana)
UNDDA	United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UN-LiREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
WAANSA	West African Action Network on Small Arms

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