

**Sixty-second session**

Items 100 (l) and 100 (o) of the provisional agenda\*

**General and complete disarmament****The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects****Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report summarizes the activities undertaken at the national, subregional and regional level by the United Nations, States and organizations in a position to do so, to provide assistance to States in their efforts to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and collecting and disposing of them.

It also provides an overview of the implementation by the United Nations system and States of General Assembly resolution 61/66 of 6 December 2006 on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

The report covers the period from July 2006 to July 2007.

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\* A/62/150.



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## I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 61/66 of 6 December 2006 on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on their implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and encouraged Member States to submit such reports. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of that resolution.

2. By its resolution 61/71 of 6 December 2006 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The present report is submitted pursuant to the requests contained in the above-mentioned resolutions.

## II. Assistance to States

3. Within the framework of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, an inter-agency mission composed of representatives from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic Community of West African States Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) visited Guinea-Bissau in May 2007, at the request of its Government. The mission's main goal was to update the objectives of a project aimed at assisting the Government of Guinea-Bissau in its efforts to curb the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country and supporting the functioning of Guinea-Bissau's National Commission on SALW, which was launched in March 2007. The mission met, inter alia, with high-level Government officials, members of the National Commission, representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as well as relevant national and international non-governmental organizations. It is expected that the United Nations project, which is funded by the Government of Japan, will be implemented in close coordination with ECOSAP in Guinea-Bissau.

4. During the period under review, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to assist the Sri Lanka National Commission Against the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms through a joint project funded by the Government of Japan. With the project's support, the Sri Lanka National Commission carried out a survey of the small arms and light weapons situation in the southern regions of the country. The survey is expected to provide data for the development of a national action plan to curb the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.

5. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean provided technical assistance for the creation and strengthening of multisectoral national firearms commissions in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Peru. The Centre also provided support to

Bolivia and Paraguay in the reformation and harmonization of national firearms legislation with regional and global instruments. This support forms part of a larger initiative, which was concluded by the Regional Centre during the reporting period, to review and update a comparative analysis of national firearms legislation from 19 Latin American countries. Based on lessons learned from this initiative, the Regional Centre began undertaking a similar review of national firearms legislation of States in the Caribbean. The European Union and Sweden provided funding for these activities.

### **III. Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

#### **A. United Nations system**

##### **General Assembly**

*Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons*

6. By paragraph 3 of its resolution 60/81 of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly decided to establish a group of governmental experts, appointed by the Secretary-General on the basis of equitable geographical representation, commencing after the conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and no later than 2007, to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons in three sessions of one week's duration each, and to submit the report on the outcome of its study to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

7. On 7 June 2006, the Secretary-General appointed a Group of Governmental Experts from the following 25 States: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

8. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Daniël Prins, Deputy Head of Mission at the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the Conference on Disarmament, the Group held three sessions, the first in Geneva from 27 November to 1 December 2006, and the second and third sessions in New York from 19 to 23 March and from 4 to 8 June 2007, respectively. At the conclusion of its work, the Group adopted a consensus report (A/62/163) containing the first agreed description of what constitutes brokering in small arms and light weapons and when such brokering should be considered to be illicit. The report also presents an overview of the efforts made at the national, regional and global levels in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, and elements that States could consider in developing or strengthening national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to control illicit small arms and light weapons brokering.

Finally, the report recommends a set of measures for enhancing international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. Those recommendations cover the development and implementation of national legislation and administrative procedures; international cooperation on sharing of information among regulating authorities and law enforcement officials; international assistance and capacity-building; national reporting as well as the enhancement of international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons in violation of United Nations Security Council arms embargoes and sanctions.

9. The report of the Group of Governmental Experts (ibid.) also contains recommendations regarding the role of relevant international organizations, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in providing assistance to States to build the capacity to develop and implement actions aimed at combating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. The Group also recommended that the Office assist in the collection and dissemination of information through, inter alia, the development of a website to include relevant reports, national legislation submitted by States, requests for and offers of assistance, lists of national coordinating agencies and points of contact, regional and global instruments and initiatives, as well as information on resources that could be available through international organizations.

*International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons*

10. By paragraph 3 of its resolution 61/66, the General Assembly called upon all States to implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the Instrument) (see A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex), among others, through the provision of information to the Secretary-General on the name and contact information of the national points of contact and on national marking practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable.

11. In January 2007, the Office for Disarmament Affairs sent a note verbale to Member States requesting the name and contact information of the national point(s) of contact as well as information on the national marking practices related to small arms and light weapons markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import. The note verbale suggested that States might wish to consider nominating one or more national points of contact who is (are) conversant with matters relating to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons. As of July 2007, the Office has received 23 reports and 13 national points of contact.

12. During the reporting period, the Office developed a project to promote the Instrument through the organization of four subregional workshops and the publication of an implementation guide. The project, which is expected to commence in November 2007, will conclude its activities by June 2008. The principal objective of the project is to help familiarize relevant Government officials with the Instrument and its main provisions and to identify specific actions that States should take in order to implement the provisions of the Instrument. The workshops will provide basic training on technical topics related to weapons tracing and the formulation of tracing requests, while the guide will serve as a reference for practitioners and background material for the workshops. It is furthermore expected

that the activities of the project will provide a basis for States to begin conducting a needs assessment for the effective implementation of the Instrument.

13. The project will be implemented by the Office, in partnership with interested Governments, regional and/or subregional organizations, international organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), and civil society organizations.

#### *Security Council*

14. On 29 June 2007, the Security Council adopted a statement by its President (S/PRST/2007/24), by which, among other things, the Council noted once again with grave concern that the destabilizing accumulation and illicit manufacture, trade and circulation of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world increases the intensity and duration of armed conflicts, undermines the sustainability of peace agreements, impedes the success of peacebuilding, frustrates efforts aimed at the prevention of armed conflict, hinders considerably the provision of humanitarian assistance, and compromises the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

15. The Council underlined the need to address this issue and in that regard, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council on a biennial basis beginning in 2008, a report on small arms containing his analysis, observations and recommendations as well as his observations on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to facilitate its further consideration of the matter.

#### *Coordinating Action on Small Arms*

16. During the reporting period, the members of the CASA mechanism<sup>1</sup> carried out a number of joint activities under the framework of the mechanism. While the number of coordination meetings held at Headquarters was reduced drastically, with only one meeting held in New York, on 24 November 2006, for the first time, a CASA meeting was held in Geneva for representatives of CASA members based in Geneva and Vienna, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. At that meeting, there was unanimous

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<sup>1</sup> The Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism was established by the Secretary-General in 1998 to enable the Organization to bring a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to bear on a complex and multifaceted global problem. It has 16 United Nations entities as members: the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

agreement that the proper functioning of the mechanism would require the allocation of adequate resources to provide secretariat services thereto.

17. In September 2006, the joint CASA project “Capacity-building for reporting to the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms” was completed. The project had been implemented by the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP (BCPR/UNDP), UNIDIR and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey, and provided assistance to 109 developing countries in preparing their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. Activities included the production of a reporting assistance package, available from the UNDP website (<http://www.undp.org/bcpr/smallarms/PoA.htm>), the organization of five regional workshops and the publication of a comprehensive analytical report. The report, entitled *Five Years of Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Regional Analysis of National Reports*,<sup>2</sup> by Elli Kytömäki and Valerie Yankey-Wayne, analysed the information of national reports which were voluntarily submitted by States during the period from 2002 to 2005 and highlighted the main trends in national reporting. It includes an analysis of regional differences in the implementation of the Programme of Action, thematic priorities and areas in which further assistance is required.

18. Meanwhile, in November 2006, the Office for Disarmament Affairs began implementing the second phase of the CASA Internet database/website project. This phase entails the development of a section containing training modules and another containing information on best practices. Work has also begun on the expansion of the database’s country profiles section to include information on country-specific international assistance needs. In that regard, in June 2007, the Office sent letters to national points of contact of more than 50 countries, requesting information on their needs for assistance. The project is being implemented with the financial support of the Governments of the Czech Republic, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland and in partnership with CASA members, inter alia, the Regional Centre in Lima, BCPR/UNDP, UNIDIR, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

19. In November 2006, a publication entitled *Developing a Mechanism to Prevent Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons — Scope and Implications*<sup>3</sup> was launched in Geneva, on the occasion of the first session of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, referred to above. The publication served as a valuable background document for the work of the above-mentioned Group, and was the result of a partnership involving the BCPR/UNDP, UNIDIR, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Small Arms Survey. The project was jointly funded by the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

#### *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*

20. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to collect, collate and circulate data and information provided by Member States on a voluntary basis, which includes

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. G.V.E.06.0.8 (UNIDIR/2006/6).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. G.V.E.06.0.17.

national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, national legislation on small arms and light weapons and national points of contact for the implementation of the Programme of Action. During the reporting period, the Office received 27 additional national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The information received is posted on the website of the Office.<sup>4</sup>

21. On 1 July 2007, the Office assumed the chairmanship of the Geneva Process on Small Arms<sup>5</sup> and, in that capacity, facilitated follow-up to the Working Group on Biennial Meeting of States as well as the ongoing work of the Working Group on Needs and Resources.

22. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, the Regional Centre in Lima and the Organization of American States (OAS) reached an agreement to conduct a joint study on the implementation of that instrument. This study will analyse the impact of the Convention since its entry into force in 1997, as well as how OAS and the United Nations can better meet the needs of States of the region, in support of the effective implementation of the Convention.

23. A pioneering pilot assistance project initiated in July 2006 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in partnership with the Regional Centre in Lima, was completed in February 2007. The assistance included a comparative analysis of the legislation of the four Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) States (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), several consultative meetings, and a subregional workshop to promote the implementation of the Firearms Protocol held from 6 to 8 November 2006 in Asunción. As part of the project, the Regional Centre developed a “dummy” model electronic platform for the monitoring and promotion of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol by the States of MERCOSUR.

24. A regional seminar was undertaken for governmental representatives and NGOs to exchange ideas and experiences on stockpile management, related security issues and weapons destruction. This two-day seminar, co-organized by OAS, the Latin American Social Sciences Institute, the General National Mobilization Directorate of the Chilean Ministry of Defence, and supported by the Regional Centre, took place on 9 and 10 November 2006 in Santiago. In another initiative to support States in the region to implement practical disarmament measures, the Regional Centre in Lima and its partners initiated a long-term assistance package to Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay on improving the safety and security of firearms, ammunition and explosives stockpile facilities. Funding was provided by the European Union.

25. In February 2007, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa participated in the First International Consultative Conference on the ECOWAS Small Arms Programme, which adopted the standard operational procedures for the implementation of ECOSAP. During the Consultative Conference, the Centre, along with UNDP, ECOSAP Management and the

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<sup>4</sup> <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/salw-nationalreports-2007.htm>. The Office also maintains printed versions of the documents, which are available for consultation by Member States.

<sup>5</sup> The Geneva Process was initiated by the Geneva Forum as an informal consultative mechanism among Geneva-based delegates and representatives of Member States, international organizations including the United Nations system and NGOs.

ECOWAS Small Arms Unit, were designated to serve as members of the ECOSAP Technical Committee, which examines and approves project proposals submitted by National Commissions and civil society organizations.

26. During the reporting period, within the framework of the project “Small Arms Transparency and Control Regime in Africa”, which was funded by Sweden and Norway, the Centre published the “Inventory of National Arms Production Capacities” in nine participating States (Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo). This inventory aims at laying the foundation for regulatory processes on local arms production in those countries. Also, within the framework of the project, the Centre purchased and donated computers and printers to National Commissions to support the establishment of national electronic registers of small arms and light weapons. In addition, the Centre continued to maintain its Small Arms and Light Weapons Register for Africa, with a view to promoting confidence-building and transparency in arms transfers among participating African States.

27. During the period under review, the Regional Centre collaborated with the General Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on the elaboration of a legally binding instrument for the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. Furthermore, the Centre began developing a partnership programme with Interpol and the Regional Centre in Lima aimed at strengthening capacities in firearms investigation techniques through the transfer of relevant knowledge, experience and lessons learned from Latin America and the Caribbean region to Africa.

28. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, upon the request of the Government of Japan, provided substantive support in the organization of a workshop on “Small arms and light weapons issues from the perspective of the protection and empowerment of the peaceful community”, held in Tokyo on 12 and 13 March 2007 (see A/61/851, annex).

#### *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*

29. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continued to play an important role in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Haiti, Liberia and the Sudan. As the integral part of a formal disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the provisions for weapons collection and destruction are designed to be applicable and sustainable in wider small arms and light weapons control initiatives after the disarmament and demobilization components have been completed.

30. The Department co-chaired the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Working Group consists of 16 United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes.<sup>6</sup> On 18 December

<sup>6</sup> Office for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Political Affairs, Department of Public Information, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Children’s Fund, UNDP, United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIDIR, United Nations Population Fund, UNHCR, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2006, the Department launched the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards and the Web-based United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Centre. The standards, whose development began in 2005, are the most complete repository and best practices drawn from the experience of all United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including a specific module on small arms and light weapons control, security and development.

*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

31. During the period under review, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to assist States in ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol), as well as its other two Protocols.<sup>7</sup> During 2006, 13 States ratified the Firearms Protocol. The Protocol had 62 States Parties as of 31 May 2007.

32. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its third session,<sup>8</sup> held in Vienna from 9 to 18 October 2006, embarked on the substantive review of the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. After reviewing the first analytical report on the issue,<sup>9</sup> four priority issues for technical assistance in implementing the Firearms Protocol were identified: (i) marking of firearms; (ii) record-keeping; (iii) deactivation; and (iv) identification of competent authorities. The Conference of the Parties, in its decision 3/4, requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop proposals for technical assistance activities designed to meet the identified needs of Member States in the priority areas. Such proposals will be submitted to the intersessional meeting of the open-ended interim working group on technical assistance for consideration, scheduled to be held in Vienna from 3 to 5 October 2007.

33. In 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime began developing technical guidelines to assist Member States with the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Its primary aim is to support States in creating or strengthening the institutions necessary to control licit flows of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. The guidelines are being developed, inter alia, through a series of expert working group meetings. The first meeting was held in Vienna, from 6 to 8 November 2006, bringing together experts from various Member States, other United Nations agencies, NGOs and the firearms manufacturing industry. Its focus was on the marking of firearms; record-keeping practices to allow the tracing and identification of firearms illicitly manufactured or trafficked; and the establishment of effective systems for export, import and transit licensing or authorization. The

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<sup>7</sup> The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

<sup>8</sup> See the report of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its third session (CTOC/COP/2006/14).

<sup>9</sup> See the report of the Secretariat on the Implementation of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC/COP/2006/8).

meeting also served as a forum for taking stock of the overall situation and sharing experiences and lessons learned. Additional workshops will be held in 2007.

34. In November 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime field office in Colombia published a report entitled *Violence, Crime and Illegal Arms Trafficking in Colombia*<sup>10</sup> and, based on its findings, initiated, in the same year, the project “Preventing and combating the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms and ammunition to prevent crime and promote a culture of peace in Colombia”. The project aims at raising awareness on firearms control through a number of activities, the most visible of which being the “escopetarra” guitars, produced from decommissioned rifles. The musical instrument was featured at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2006 and several are on display in the disarmament section of the visitors’ guided tour route at United Nations Headquarters and at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime headquarters. Additional activities of the project include the review of the regulatory and legislative framework in Colombia and the promotion of the ratification of the Firearms Protocol. Also, the project aims at developing theoretical and practical tools on border control to address the illegal trafficking in firearms and ammunition and a best practice guide on border control. This is complemented by specialized training for Government institutions responsible for the control, regulation and production of firearms, and four courses on basic investigation techniques for the control of the legal commerce and the prevention of illegal traffic of firearms, ammunition and explosives, developed with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first course took place in November/December 2006.

35. As mentioned above, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office, based in Brazil, initiated in 2006 a joint preparatory assistance project with UNDP and the members of MERCOSUR and Chile, an associate member, to review and analyse the situation of firearms control and its legislative framework and promote the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. The Office is also participating with the Regional Centre in the testing of a database, accessible through the Centre’s website, to allow countries to exchange information on transactions and registration of firearms and the tracing of illicit firearms.

*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

36. The Special Rapporteur on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons, Ms. Barbara Frey, presented her final report (A/HRC/Sub.1/58/27 and Add.1) to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session in August 2006. The report complements two previous reports by the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/29 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/37 and Add.1) and further elaborates draft principles on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons.

37. In 2006, OHCHR and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) supported the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of the Palipehutu/FNL (Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu/Forces nationales de

<sup>10</sup> The report is available online in English and Spanish at [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia\\_Dec06\\_en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia_Dec06_en.pdf) (English) and [http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia\\_Dec06\\_es.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Colombia_Dec06_es.pdf) (Spanish).

Libération). OHCHR and ONUB advocated the transfer of FNL combatants who had deserted or been captured from military camps and positions to a central location known as Randa Site, in Bubanza Province. Human rights officers visited the camp regularly to monitor conditions, with particular attention to the situation of minors. In the context of security sector reform, human rights officers trained military officers and non-commissioned officers on human rights principles and the application of humanitarian and human rights law in Burundi.

*United Nations Children's Fund*

38. In the area of small arms and light weapons, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is an active partner in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children and youth in more than 12 countries. UNICEF collaborated with partners in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among others, in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and provided medical, educational and skills training for tens of thousands of demobilized child soldiers and war-affected children. Moreover, UNICEF facilitated their reintegration into families and communities.

39. As a result of efforts made under the UNICEF partnership with the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in 2006, a Ministerial meeting of 59 interested States, hosted by the Government of France and UNICEF in February 2007, adopted "The Paris Commitments to Protect Children from Unlawful Recruitment or Use by Armed Forces or Armed Groups" (The Paris Commitments) and a second, complementary document, the "Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (The Paris principles), which provide more detailed guidance for those who are implementing programmes. These instruments are aimed at protecting children affected by conflict and provide practical actions to complement global legal standards to help prevent recruitment and support demobilization and reintegration.

40. UNICEF promotes schools as "zones of peace", which create an environment in which children can learn and develop, safe from violence and free from the presence of small arms. Contributing to the implementation of the Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, UNICEF is engaged with partners in promoting capacity-building in the fields of peace education and tolerance, risk education, conflict resolution, and research on the impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In 2006, UNICEF supported programme activities in these areas in more than 30 countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF supports the protection of children through the integration of small arms and light weapons awareness into its school-based mine risk education programme, its training for teachers and its peer education programme. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF supports the "Xchange" programme to promote the creation of safe and protective environments (free from violence) for children.

41. In 2006, UNICEF further contributed to landmark research for the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children (see A/61/299), which was submitted to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 11 October 2006, and the expanded *World Report on Violence Against Children*,<sup>11</sup> which encapsulates the aforementioned study. The Study and Report provide a

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<sup>11</sup> Available from [www.unicef.org/violencestudy/](http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/).

detailed picture of the nature, extent and causes of violence against children, including small arms and light weapons, and proposed clear recommendations for action to prevent and respond to such violence.

*United Nations Development Programme*

42. During the reporting period, UNDP provided support to more than 40 countries to reduce the availability of small arms and light weapons. Programmes included support to strengthen controls over small arms and light weapons — through, for instance, legislative reforms, stockpile management and voluntary collection and destruction campaigns — and initiatives aimed at addressing the range of factors fuelling the demand for weapons. Support was also provided to regional small arms and light weapons initiatives in Central America, South-Eastern Europe, West Africa and the Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa.

43. UNDP further contributed to global policy and programmatic initiatives. In 2006, UNDP funded and implemented a parliamentary project — jointly with two parliamentary NGOs (the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Parliamentarians for Global Action) — which aimed at capacity-building among Members of Parliaments to address small arms and light weapons-related issues in their respective countries. Project activities incorporated a sponsorship programme to enable participating Members of Parliaments to attend key small arms and light weapons-related meetings, including the 2006 Review Conference, and the establishment of a help desk to provide ongoing support to the Members of Parliaments and a Parliamentary Observatory to undertake research-oriented activities.

44. In June 2006, the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (see A/CONF.192/2006/RC/2, annex) was adopted by the Governments of 42 Member States in Geneva. Following the declaration, a Core Group of Member States and Multilateral Organizations was established. The activities of the Core Group are jointly steered by the Swiss Government and UNDP.

45. In addition to diplomatic efforts led by the Swiss Government, a regional seminar was organized in April 2007, in Guatemala, with the aim of promoting the Geneva Declaration and to familiarize countries from the Latin America and Caribbean region with it. The seminar resulted in the adoption of the Guatemala Declaration on Armed Violence and Development by 12 Member States in the region. A second workshop is expected to take place in Africa during the second half of 2007. At the end of June 2007, the Geneva Declaration had been adopted by 50 States. In support of the Geneva Declaration, the Core Group began focusing on developing appropriate tools and indicators to measure the impact of armed violence on development. To that end, a workshop was organized in June 2007 by the Small Arms Survey in Geneva. The Core Group also collaborated with a number of focus countries to develop comprehensive armed violence prevention programmes in the context of national development frameworks.

46. UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly implemented the Armed Violence Prevention Programme, which is detailed in paragraph 47 below. The Programme is working with donor agencies within the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) to develop guidance on armed violence and development in support of the aforementioned Geneva Declaration.

*World Health Organization*

47. The World Health Organization and UNDP continued to collaborate on the Armed Violence Prevention Programme, a joint initiative initiated in 2005, which promotes effective and comprehensive international responses to armed violence and best practices generated from violence reduction and prevention initiatives. The Programme continued its project and pursued country-level activities in Brazil and El Salvador. In the two countries, the Programme contributed to the systematic documentation of violence prevention programming and the evaluation of two violence prevention programmes. WHO and UNDP presented the results of Phase 1 of the Programme at a consultative review of the Programme in Panama in January 2007. At that meeting, a number of other United Nations agencies expressed their interest in formally joining the Programme for Phase 2 activities. During initial discussions, the Programme suggested to take Jamaica, Guatemala and Kenya into consideration for inclusion in Phase 2 of the project.

**B. Activities undertaken at the regional and subregional levels**

48. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was convened on 28 July 2006, in Kuala Lumpur. The Ministers recognized that the illegal use of small arms and light weapons still constituted a serious threat to human security in every part of the world. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the Forum's strong commitment to work towards the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action as well as General Assembly resolution 60/81.

49. The ECOWAS Commission initiated an advocacy campaign to Member States for the ratification of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunitions and Other Related Materials. Advocacy visits were conducted to Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo which committed to measures towards the ratification of the Convention. In addition, work began on the drafting of a comprehensive plan of action for the implementation of the Convention.

50. In 2006 ECOWAS assessed in all member States the functioning of the National Commissions for the fight against illicit circulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with the decision of the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State and Government in December 1999, which also adopted the ECOWAS Code of Conduct. A comprehensive assessment report, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness and capacities of these Commissions, will be finalized by ECOWAS in the second half of 2007.

51. On 21 March 2007, the Forum for Security Cooperation of OSCE held a special meeting to explore initiatives to curb the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons via air and by private cargo companies. Activities could include the development of a best practice guide, increased dialogue between Governments and private business actors and the exchange of information on national legislation and regulations on import and export controls relating to the air transport sector.

52. The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre organized two awareness-raising seminars in Turkmenistan, in November 2006, in furtherance of the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. In November 2006, Phase I

of the Comprehensive Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Programme in Tajikistan, focusing on Dushanbe and its vicinities, was successfully completed. The project resulted in the disposal of 23,000 items of small arms and light weapons, including 8 MANPADS, and 34 tons of conventional ammunition collected from battle fields and from civilian population. An ammunition demolition and storage facility was developed, new small arms and light weapons storages refurbished and constructed and specialized personnel were trained. Phase II of the programme was launched later in 2006 with the aim of addressing similar risks throughout the country. In Moldova, OSCE carried out a project to destroy approximately 2,800 tons of conventional ammunition.

53. In June 2006, a memorandum of understanding was signed between UNDP and the OSCE secretariat on a Joint Implementation of Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition in response to requests by OSCE Participating States. The memorandum of understanding built a basis for a pilot project on capacity-building of small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security in Belarus. In response to the request for assistance submitted by Montenegro in February 2007, OSCE expanded its cooperation with UNDP and initiated a joint programme which is intended to result, inter alia, in the destruction of almost 10,000 tons of ammunition and the enhancement of safety and security of small arms and light weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

54. The Belgrade-based South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) — a joint project of UNDP and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe — has been the leading actor in the efforts to combat the threat posed by the uncontrolled and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the South-Eastern European region. The Stability Pact continues to support SEESAC as the main vehicle for the implementation of the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan on Combating Small Arms and Light Weapons in South Eastern Europe, which was adopted in November 2001 and revised in May 2006. SEESAC has also been the main instrument for capacity-building in the area of small arms and light weapons control in the subregion. The Revised Regional Implementation Plan seeks to enhance regional cooperation in this critical area, providing both information sharing and local standard setting, geared towards project implementation. The Plan envisages continued SEESAC support to South-Eastern European small arms and light weapons programmes and recommends that the States of the subregion continue to cooperate with SEESAC through the Regional Steering Group and national focal points. The revised plan continues the development of a comprehensive and coherent approach towards harmonization with the security policies of the European Union in the field of small arms and light weapons, in preparation for European Union membership negotiations and the capacity-building for the implementation of the European Union Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy.

55. On 1 November 2006, the initial meeting of the Western Balkans Members of Parliaments took place in Belgrade under the auspices of a Regional Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The meeting was organized by SEESAC with the assistance of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms based in Sweden. Members of the European Parliament and the Parliaments of the European Union member States, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum for Small Arms and Light Weapons, and UNDP technical advisers and project managers informed the parliamentarians from the Western Balkans about European Union strategies and

engagement on small arms and light weapons, the involvement of European Union parliamentarians in small arms and light weapons control, the importance of a national small arms and light weapons control strategy, and the need for coordinated action and increased parliamentary oversight and advocacy.

56. On 9 and 10 November 2006, the General Secretariat of the OAS organized a seminar in Santiago, Chile, in collaboration with the Latin American Social Sciences Institute, the Regional Centre in Lima and the Office of the Director General of National Mobilization of the Chilean Ministry of Defence. The seminar aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices in the region concerning stockpile management and security and the destruction of surplus weapons.

57. On 11 and 12 October 2006, the OAS Group of Experts to prepare model legislation on the areas covered by the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials met in Washington, D.C., to review a draft model legislation on the marking and tracing of firearms. The group also began consideration of model legislation on strengthening controls at export points. The Model Legislation on Marking and Tracing of Firearms was subsequently approved by the Consultative Committee of the Convention during its eighth regular meeting, held on 19 April 2007.

58. From 20 to 22 March 2007, the OAS General Secretariat organized a seminar in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on transnational organized crime in the Caribbean. A special panel discussed illicit arms trafficking in the region. The results of the seminar will be incorporated into a plan of action for OAS efforts to combat firearms trafficking in the Caribbean region.

59. In Colombia, the OAS General Secretariat initiated activities to destroy 18,000 firearms decommissioned from the demobilized United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia. The OAS further initiated activities to destroy over 900 tons of obsolete and/or surplus munitions in Nicaraguan Army stockpiles.

60. With Haiti's deposit of ratification in April 2007, 27 of the 34 OAS member States have ratified the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials. Several projects are planned to encourage the remaining signatory States to ratify the convention and to strengthen national legislation in the area of firearms controls.

### **C. Activities undertaken by intergovernmental organizations**

61. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) coordinates efforts in the field of small arms and light weapons through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on small arms and light weapons and mine action and the Political-Military Steering Committee. NATO provides practical support to nations seeking to implement the United Nations Programme of Action and the Mine-Ban Convention<sup>12</sup> through the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme. Projects funded

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<sup>12</sup> Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757).

by the Partnership for Peace Trust Fund support the destruction of small arms and light weapons, munitions, landmines and MANPADS. The Trust Fund also supports projects aimed at improving stockpile security.

62. Representatives of verification units and ministerial offices of 15 countries, representatives from the NATO international staff, the NATO School, and the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre attended the Fourth Multinational Small Arms and Light Weapons Symposium, which was held in Berne from 16 to 20 October 2006, under the auspices of the Swiss Ministry of Defence. The main focus of the Symposium was the transfer of a Swiss-created course on small arms and light weapons site assessment visits to the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, where regular courses are expected to be offered in 2008.

63. On 12 and 13 June 2007, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the OSCE co-sponsored a workshop at NATO headquarters in Brussels, on the topic "MANPADS and All Its Aspects". The workshop drew 79 participants from a large geographic spread of countries, international and NGOs. The workshop aimed at increasing awareness of the threat of illicit MANPADS to civilian and military aircraft and to facilitate the exchange of information on technical and political measures to counter this threat.

64. At its 12th plenary meeting, held in December 2006, the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technology considered further export control measures and agreed on a number of amendments to its control lists. It agreed to initiate a dialogue between the Wassenaar Experts Group and its counterpart from the Missile Technology Control Regime, with a view to discussing the control of specific items. It also adopted best practices concerning intangible transfers of technology related to conventional arms and dual-use items.

65. The Wassenaar Arrangement undertook a number of outreach activities to non-Participating States focusing, inter alia, on MANPADS and on the potential for their unlawful proliferation. The December plenary expressed its appreciation for these activities, and encouraged Participating States to further promote the Wassenaar Elements for Export Controls of MANPADS to other States.

66. Interpol has been specifically mandated in paragraph 35 of the International Instrument to assist States with the facilitation of tracing operations conducted within the framework of this Instrument and investigations to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons.

67. In light of the chronic insecurity and protracted conflicts fuelled, in part, by the widespread proliferation of small arms and light weapons, Interpol, in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, developed the analytical project "Silaha", focusing on illicit arms trafficking in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. The purpose of the project, which officially commenced in January 2007, is to effectively collect, store and analyse information on illicit arms dealings in the Great Lakes region. With the assistance of partner organizations and agencies, the project aims to centralize relevant operational and strategic data for analysis, with a view to identifying major illicit arms brokers and traffickers, their sources, modus operandi, as well as general criminal trends. A subsequent analytical report was issued in July 2007. The report contains the

project's findings as well as recommendations for appropriate action. Through this project, Interpol also hopes to stimulate the exchange of crucial arms-related information on a multilateral basis, via the Organization's existing information and communication channels, and to identify sustainable ways in which the collection, exchange and analysis of information concerning arms dealing could be improved. It is hoped that this project and the resulting analysis will benefit the African countries concerned by small arms and light weapons trafficking and ultimately contribute to achieving a sustainable justice, peace and security in the region.

68. Interpol continued to develop its Weapons Electronic Tracing System project, which was created as a means to provide member States with the capabilities to trace illicit firearms that are seized through law enforcement activities in their countries. Once operational, the Tracing System will allow all law enforcement officers with access to the Interpol secure global communications system (I-24/7) to run queries on seized firearms. The System allows for information about the seized firearm to be checked against records in other participating countries. The information would also be checked against the Interpol criminal information database to determine whether the relevant weapon had previously been linked to a criminal case. The System will also include a tool, based on the Canadian Firearms Reference Table, which assists officers in correctly identifying firearms. The System's search facility is connected to the weapons tracing system operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in the United States. Interpol plans to further connect the search facility to weapons tracing systems of other member States. Considering the relevance of Interpol's activities and the organization's expertise in the field of marking and tracing, the Office for Disarmament Affairs intends to closely cooperate with Interpol in the framework of the previously mentioned activities in furtherance of the promotion and implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

69. The Interpol Subregional Bureau in Nairobi addressed issues relating to small arms and light weapons. The Bureau convened a meeting of regional stakeholders from 4 to 5 September 2006, to promote collaboration on the Interpol analytical project on illicit arms trafficking in the Great Lakes region of Africa. In addition, two workshops held in January and February 2007, respectively, on enhanced information exchange through the Interpol secure global communications system were attended by the Interpol National Central Bureaux, National Focal Points for Small Arms and Light Weapons, Fire Arms Registrars and Customs Officials.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

70. With the adoption of resolution 61/66, the General Assembly unequivocally reiterated its continued support to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The decision to convene a Biennial Meeting of States in 2008 was hailed as a vote of confidence on the follow-up mechanism of the Programme of Action. During the reporting period, increased attention was given to the implementation of the Instrument. Resolution 61/66 not only called on States to implement the Instrument but also requested them to consider the implementation of the Instrument, in the framework of the Biennial Meeting of States.

71. Another significant development was the successful conclusion of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance

international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. Notwithstanding the complex nature of its subject matter, the Group was able to reach consensus on a report which, inter alia, contains building blocks and recommendations for enhancing such international cooperation.

72. Regional, subregional and international organizations continued to play an important role in promoting and supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action. Members of the CASA mechanism, often in partnership with civil society organizations, undertook joint projects to assist States in building capacity to implement measures to counter the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. To further support the work of the mechanism and enhance its relevance to Member States, the CASA Database has been expanded to include training modules as well as information on best practices and assistance needs.

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