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### ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the report on the results of his broad-based consultations on the magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,<sup>61</sup>

*Convinced* of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

*Welcoming* in this regard the decision on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,<sup>62</sup> the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in

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<sup>61</sup> A/54/404 and Add.1.

<sup>62</sup> A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV).

Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,<sup>63</sup> the decision on prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in small arms and related crimes, adopted by the Council of Ministers at the nineteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community, held at Maputo on 17 and 18 August 1999,<sup>64</sup> the initiative taken by States members of the Economic Community of West African States in declaring a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,<sup>39</sup> and the adoption by the European Union of the Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the other initiatives it has taken, such as the Joint Action on Small Arms<sup>65</sup> that has been endorsed by several Member States not members of the European Union,

*Welcoming also* the assistance provided by Member States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

*Mindful* of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, and welcoming the practical measures taken by Member States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his reports on small arms,<sup>66</sup>

*Recognizing* the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

*Bearing in mind* the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking and terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

*Stressing* the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

*Considering* that the United Nations could, through a coordinated approach, collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

*Emphasizing* the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies and within the Secretariat through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in its ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

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<sup>63</sup> See A/53/78, annex.

<sup>64</sup> A/54/488-S/1999/1082, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1082.

<sup>65</sup> A/54/374, annex.

<sup>66</sup> A/52/298 and A/54/258.

*Noting with appreciation* the workshops on illicit trafficking in small arms, held at Lomé and Lima, organized, respectively by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Conscious* of its decision to convene an international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects no later than 2001,<sup>67</sup> and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,<sup>28</sup> as well as the views of Member States on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of such an international conference,<sup>68</sup>

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and to submit to the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and States in a position to do so to assist States in taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and invites the Secretary-General to utilize these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus small arms and light weapons, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on the types and quantities destroyed;

4. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

*69th plenary meeting  
1 December 1999*

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<sup>67</sup> See resolution 53/77 E.

<sup>68</sup> A/54/260.