

# **Small Arms Demand and Violence in the Caribbean: Focus on Haiti**

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**This is a paper in progress**

# **Small Arms Demand and Violence in the Caribbean: Focus on Haiti**

## **Serge Bordenave y Denise R. Davis**

*Even in societies not beset by civil war, the easy availability of small arms has in many cases contributed to violence and political instability. These, in turn, have damaged development prospects and imperiled human security in every way."*

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The human impact of the widespread availability and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is becoming increasingly well documented. Much of the policy response to the small arms problem to date has focused on regulating the supply and transfer of small arms, giving short shrift to analyzing the problems of demand.

This paper is an attempt to point to the importance of analyzing and acting on the problems of demand, while fully acknowledging the critical importance of dealing with issues of supply. The serious interrelated problems facing the small island nations of the Greater Caribbean, including poverty, economic instability, drug-trafficking, criminality, and violence, combine with cultural and psychosocial elements ranging from display of masculinity to expressions of identity feed the demand and exacerbate the violence that comes from the use of illegal and legal small arms. The result is a proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and a corresponding increase in violence and violent conflict.

Taking Haiti as the focal point of analysis, this paper analyzes the situation of Haitian society from the perspective of violence, small arms demand and use. Haitian society is particularly vulnerable to the spread of organized criminality, an ineffective and unaccountable national government, corrupt policing, and widespread availability of small arms. This paper begins with an overview of the work being done on small arms and light weapons at the global level. The second section of the paper describes the work that the American Friends Service Committee and other Quaker institutions have done on the demand side of small arms. It then moves to a brief overview of the situation in Haiti to set the basis for describing a workshop in Haiti to examine the issues of violence, programs combating violence, and small arms demand and use in the Caribbean in an attempt to further the process on analyzing and dealing with small arms demand. The final section puts forth conclusions and identifies future areas of research and work on small arms demand.

### **II. BACKGROUND – A FOCUS ON SUPPLY**

For all the talk today about weapons of mass destruction, and the obviously horrific toll they might take if used, too little attention is paid to small arms and light weapons.

In the last decade 47 of the 49 biggest wars were fought with small arms, not sophisticated weaponry, yet the casualties numbered in the millions. The United Nations estimates that small arms still kill about 300,000 people a year in conflict, most of them civilians. In addition, there are some 200,000 gun deaths from homicides and suicides. What are in fact our weapons of mass destruction? <sup>1</sup>

In 1997 a UN panel of governmental experts on small arms proposed holding the **United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**, which took place from 9 to 20 July 2001 in New York, adopting a consensus program of action. <sup>2</sup> This Programme of Action (see Appendix A for a summary of the points) focused on preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade of SALW at the national, regional, and global level.

The session at the UN was very contentious, as USA interest groups against any form of small arms control intervened heavily in the negotiations, and as part of the US delegation, nearly causing the meeting to collapse. In the end, a final report was approved, but without as much power and resources for implementation as it would need to be really effective.

After considerable preparatory work, the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials was adopted in Washington D.C. on 14 November 1997. <sup>3</sup> Again, it has lofty ambitions, but the key measures are voluntary and the implementing mechanisms are weak. The United States and Canada have not ratified the convention, nor have many Caribbean countries, including: Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, and several other island nations.

Nonetheless, follow-up work to establish an international regime for marking and tracing small arms took its first steps at a February 4, 2004 meeting of governments to begin deliberation over a treaty that would make it harder to hide the origins of weapons that make it to the black market. While a treaty on tracing and marking will have no effect on weapons already in the field, it should help make future weapons flows easier to follow, thus making it easier to hold responsible those who violate arms embargoes and other controls. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Crossette, Barbara, U.N. Wire, January 2004

<sup>2</sup> ---, "Latin America and the Caribbean: Evaluation and Follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects", Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 2001.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oas.org/Juridico/english/Treaties/a-63.html>

<sup>4</sup> U.N. Begins Work On Small Arms Tracing Treaty *February 3, 2004* By Jim Wurst *U.N. Wire*

Other multilateral organizations and local government have been trying to deal with the complex of problems related to small arms proliferation. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has organized meetings to discuss the issues of crime and violence. The Organization of American States (OAS) has adopted resolutions (resolutions 806 and 822) which welcome Haitian Government's commitment to specific disarmament actions including a national disarmament campaign. The Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) in Trinidad and Tobago has been a leading civil society organization in the Caribbean in its efforts to gather key civil society and government players to the table for discussion and further actions. So far these discussions have mostly addressed the proliferation of weapons, the social impact of this availability and the possible means of controlling weapons flows. There is a need to extend this discussion and focus research on the demand for small arms and lights weapons in the region and to identify ways to address the root causes of social violence.

### III. DEMAND: A FOCUS ON THE ROOTS OF VIOLENCE

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said in the 2001 Secretary-General's Report on Conflict Prevention that **"...all development policies, programs and projects need to be looked at through a conflict prevention lens so that socio-economic inequalities and inequities do not give rise to violent conflict."**<sup>5</sup>

Small arms demand is one important element in the complex inter-relationships between development and violence. In the Small Arms Survey 2003 Yearbook<sup>6</sup> the authors point out that the direct effects of small arms availability and misuse on human development include fatal and non-fatal injuries, costs for treatment and rehabilitation, and lost productivity, as well as the anguish and disruption in the lives of those affected and their families and communities. The indirect effects have to do with increased incidence and mortality of the criminal activity, lessened availability of social services, decline in formal and informal economic activity, rise in illegal economic activity, declines or distortion in investment, and erosion of social capital. In addition, changes in behavior to gain "security", and diversion of government spending to deal with the violence can further retard potential for development. These relationships are complex, at an early stage of understanding, and they merit further research in particular countries and communities.

Quakers have long been at the forefront of promoting international agreements, institutions and civil society coalitions to work on issues of arms and violence since the early days of the United Nations.<sup>7</sup> The history of arms manufacture, sale and illegal trafficking demonstrates that international, binding legal agreements are needed, along with institutions that have both persuasive and enforcement powers. Also needed are concerted efforts by multilateral institutions, governments at different levels and civil society to address not only the local demand for and consequences of use of small arms, but also to be vigilant to cut off the supplies.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/prev\\_dip/fst\\_prev\\_dip.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/prev_dip/fst_prev_dip.htm)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/yb\\_2003.htm](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/yb_2003.htm), pp 125-129

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.afsc.org/quno.htm>

The Quaker United Nations offices in Geneva and New York, along with the American Friends Service Committee and other Quaker groups try to work at all these levels to forge consensus on and action to control the sale, trafficking of, demand, and use of small arms, which take a horrific toll on humanity.

The Quaker United Nations Office, along with staff of the American Friends Service Committee and partner organizations around the globe have focused attention in recent years on gathering together in different regions the key actors of civil society, NGOs, local governments, and international bodies to discuss demand for small arms and means for reducing the demand and the violence that accompanies it. These lessons-learned seminars convened by the Quakers took place in Durban, Nairobi, Toronto, and Phnom Penh. Over 40 such organizations from around the world have met to share experiences, test their assumptions and build stronger connections. These seminars have made it clear that there are practical and effective ways to lessen the demand for small arms in communities affected by gun violence. Often the programs are not focused on guns themselves but on the sense of insecurity that is the root cause for demand. The effective control of the illicit trade in small arms should focus on efforts to shrink the demand for weapons, as well as their supply.

The lessons learned through this extensive consultation process include:

1. Many successful programs are forms of broader community development, rather than specialized criminal justice or arms control work.
2. The goal for lessening demand is not to remove all weapons from the community, but rather to render them unnecessary by changing the community's perception of its security.
3. All stakeholders should be included in a community dialogue on security. Testimonies from families of gun victims and also from ex-combatants may provide strong motivation for gun control and peace promotion.
4. Most of the successful community programs are directed by the residents themselves. The result is a greater community capacity to solve its own problems. Key to successful programs is activities, which emphasize "bottom-up" problem solving.
5. Traditional practices regarding the possession and use of weapons are part of the problem and part of the solution. These processes can be strengthened and used in cooperation with formal state security processes.
6. Police forces are crucial to setting the tone for violence or peace in a community.
7. Sustainable peace in post-war settings depends, in part, on successful demobilization. Ex-combatants, even those from opposing sides, can be the basis for reconciliation programs, and can become powerful peace promoters.
8. Continued networking among organizations can pay big dividends in curbing weapons demand.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> ---, "Lessening the Demand for Small Arms and Light Weapons Summary of International Workshops 1999-2002", QUINO Geneva.

## **A. Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Focus on Haiti**

AFSC has had for years an extensive integrated development program in the Grand' Anse region of Haiti, while maintaining a concern for opportunities to contribute to conflict prevention in Haiti as a whole and the Caribbean. Building on AFSC's work in Haiti and linking it to the work that AFSC and the Quakers had done on small arms as described above, AFSC and the Quakers convened a workshop to further the discussion and analysis of the demand side of small arms. **"Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Special Focus on Haiti and Youth Issues"** was held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 8-13 June 2003. This workshop helped to push forward clarity on the need to engage in significantly more analysis, research and action on the demand side of small arms. Before turning to the description and conclusions of the workshop, a brief overview of the situation of Haiti is in order to provide the context for the discussions that took place.

### **a. Violence and Conflict in Haiti**

Haiti is currently in a situation of violence that deepens daily. It is a very worrisome situation, that has its seeds in the distant past with leaders without concrete vision to advance Haiti's democratization process. A brief historical analysis of the country helps for understanding better the current situation.

The oppression that accompanied the colonization of Santo Domingo, the pillage and exploitation of the resources by the colonial forces, and the violence of the slave system had as a direct consequence the slave revolt that created Haiti's independence on January 1, 1804. Contrary to Gramsci's theory, the violence used during independence stayed with the new free people and manifested itself through massacres of the settlers.

The hatred became structural and characterized the first 2 centuries of Haitian history. In fact, Haiti's first head of State was a military commander that before independence ruled the country through a dictatorship. After that, the majority of the country's heads of State achieved power through violence (coup d'états, civil war, revolts, etc.). To this tradition of violence it is important to add the USA occupations of 1915 and 1994 which are directly linked to the United States plans for colonization and expansionism done through the 30 years dictatorship of Duvaliers (1957 – 1986) and the 3 years of coup d'état (1991 – 1994). The direct result is that all political movements in Haiti typically adopt violence and its tools: small arms, hand-made bombs, Molotov cocktails, assassinations, etc.

In 1990, the people, in its majority, trusted Jean Bertrand Aristide to bring the country under the reign of democracy. During his term, there was a coup d'état that lasted 3 years. People resisted the coup d'état and Aristide returned, which proved even worse. Upon his return, the Aristide government created a crisis never before seen in Haiti. Aristide armed his partisans that have life and death decisions over any who question the arbitrary decisions taken by the Lavalas government. These supporters have nearly total impunity. For example, on January 13, 2004, they openly did acts of sabotage at the restaurant where several radio announcers seen as troublemakers by the government were gathering. No investigation was done despite requests from the opposition and civil society. All public manifestations against the government are

systematically repressed and President Aristide has never condemned the violence. The rise of political assassinations forced the opposition and large sectors of the civil society to demand that Aristide be replaced immediately by a Government of consensus. The need for Aristide's departure is reinforced by the steep rise in the cost of basic products, the deterioration of living conditions, the assassinations of students at the State University of Haiti, the political polarization, the political assassinations including one of Aristide's supporters, Amiot Métayer. (The Organization of the American States in its resolution 806 and 822 has demanded the immediate arrest of Métayer and others). Most of Haitian civil society has demand his immediate resignation, except Aristide's supporters that continue to defend his continuation as President.

To give an example of the complicated nature of the situation, the supporters of Aristide's government in Gonaïve (4<sup>th</sup> largest city in the North of Haiti) who have been armed to violently handled the opposition are became the most radical in opposition of the government since the assassination of their leader Amiot Métayer. Since September, 2003 there have been daily violent manifestations in Gonaïve. The schools, commerce, and the public administration are not working since then. Many civilians and police personnel have died. Many were forced to relocate, especially those living in the poor neighborhood of Raboteau, not to become the next victim. In early February 2004, the city of Gonaïve was taken over by opposition forces, at heavy cost in lives. Shortly thereafter, other cities were taken over, and dozens have died.

The anti-government demonstrations are increasing across the country, especially after the government supporters invaded the Social Science College and the National Institute for Management and International Studies (INAGHAI) on December 5, 2003 with the complicity of the Haitian National Police (PNH). They destroyed all the computers and walls at the Social Science College and injured many students. Even the Rector and vice-Rector were not spared despite their attempt to mediate. The government supporters broke both of the Rector's legs with iron bars while the police stood by and did not intervene; only later condemning the attack. The police opened an inquiry, but it is only a procedure as the inquiry is closed before it even gets started. It is pure demagoguery to have a language of peace and at the same time not take any actions to stop violent behavior, something that needs to be addressed at the deepest levels.

### **B. Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: The Workshop**

The small arms demand workshop took place over a six-day period, June 8-13, 2003 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The American Friends Service Committee Haiti Program and the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva organized the workshop, in collaboration with *Cercle des Amis des Droits Humains* (Haiti), *Commission Episcopale Nationale d'Haiti*, and Women's Institute for Alternative Development (Trinidad and Tobago). The participants included representatives of civil society groups working on the issues related to small arms and light weapons demand in the Caribbean, additional experienced participants from Central and South America, the United States, and Europe; and many interested representatives from Haitian non-governmental organizations. In addition, representatives of the United Nations Development Program and the Organization of American States also took part. The workshop agenda include presentations by participants on practical experiences and lessons, descriptions and analysis of the current

situation in Haiti; and dialogue in small groups and plenary sessions to identify steps forward and major lessons learned.

The goals of the workshop were

- To deepen understanding of small arms demand in the Caribbean region;
- To search together for strategies to reduce the root causes of small arms violence in the region;
- To investigate and recommend policies and program activities in the region that focus on the involvement of youth as perpetrators and victims of violence and as agents of positive social change; and
- To describe the current situation of political crisis and violence in Haiti.

Analysts and experienced project organizers from the greater Caribbean and from South America planned the part of the workshop that focused on demand. Confronted by the demand issue, they tried to respond to the following questions: “If we are to lure people away from guns, what other tools would be more effective, less dangerous and equally attractive for responding to the insecurities experiences by people in our community? What other tools, methods, or resources are available to them? Here is a sample summary of what they found useful.

#### **a. The Problem of Violence and How to Combat It**

The Caribbean countries have experienced an increase in violence and gun related crimes in recent years. In Jamaica, street crimes, gang violence and organized criminal activities are focused in the poorest urban neighborhoods. St. Lucia and Trinidad are additional examples of increasing gun and other violent crimes often involving unemployed and undereducated youth. This situation is caused by economic changes and the presence of gun and drugs smuggling. In Tobago, the Tobago Youth Council has seen an increase in youth gangs as a direct consequence of the lack of involvement of youth in positive and desirable roles. The Arias Foundation based in Costa Rica has identified that in Central America countries the arms build-up is directly related to youth delinquency, organized crime, domestic violence, private security forces and local/family dispute.

In all these countries the intervention for a possible solution needs to be based in three major principles: a) the community is the fundamental actor but national and international resources need to be present; b) new programs need support of existing structures if they are to be sustainable; and c) alternative development options must be integrated into the process.

In Tobago the community response has been to look at solutions such as using the youth gangs as a positive structure for change and organizing community policing programs. The police have created youth clubs that focus on music, sports, and entrepreneurship. Youth programs emphasize group-based activities, values clarification, self-esteem, and conflict resolution.

In St. Lucia the police have enforced increased penalties for unregistered guns and gun crimes. More proactively they have created a Rapid Response Unit which responds with counseling in schools after gun incidents. Women’s organizations are responding with awareness programs,



monitoring efforts and cooperation with the police to lessen domestic violence. More school outreach programs and workshops on dispute resolution are being planned.

Non-governmental and multilateral organizations are also involved in local projects to combat violence. The Arias Foundation is responding with a Central America Dialogue on small arms that encourages focused research, and capacity building by NGOs to enable them to be more effective advocates for change and more practiced and knowledgeable when partnering with governments. In Haiti, UNDP has a short-term pilot program that treats security and development as interdependent and its method, based on UN cooperation with civil society, is derived from previous development and arms collection programs. The project has two major aims: to provide technical support for a national strategy on disarmament and weapons collection; and to test community approaches to lessening violence. The hope is that the short-term program will contribute toward a longer-term, violence prevention program based in a full program for sustainable development.

### **b. The Roots of Small Arms and Light Weapons Demand**

To understand the roots of the demand for guns and other small arms, especially among young people, it is important to ask why small arms attract people. Neo-liberal, militaristic societies associate firearms with status, money, and security. We associate masculinity with power and violence. Being a man is to be strong and capable of beating the enemy. For example, in Puerto Rico the high incidence of child abuse, domestic violence, and gun possession has led to a perception of increase insecurity.

Young people are especially vulnerable. They are culturally prepared to see guns as a source of power and prestige, even before they confront problems like unemployment. Young people are seduced by pro-violence music, advertising that glorifies a lifestyle that links alcohol and drug use with money, upward mobility, and rebellion. The vehicles for change need to focus on ways of changing how youth view the world and include sports, music, employment, and schooling. According to a young artist for Trinidad it is important to use openings provided by cultural activities such as song and sports competitions to challenge the powerful images of guns and to strengthen awareness of alternative sources of power. In addition, such youth work must go hand in hand with efforts to curtail gun availability and to break the links between alcohol and advertising and pro-violence music.

In Puerto Rico, one of the most militarized countries in the Caribbean, civil society has responded with programs in peace education, human rights, media literacy and opposition to the presence of guns – especially war toys – in the lives of children. In addition, there has been a prominent and successful challenge to militarism expressed in a civil disobedience campaign that ended in the departure of the US navy from the island of Vieques after a long history of use and abuse through live ammunition training.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

The issue of small arms and light weapons is a complex one. In order to understand and mitigate the negative human impacts of these weapons we will need to continue to have policy response that focus on regulating the supply and transfer of small arms. But more than that, we will also need to address the issue of violence at the local level and the demand factors that drive the flow of small arms and light weapons and lead to their misuse.

### **A. Regarding the situation in Haiti**

The current situation in Haiti demands immediate attention. From the presentation on Haiti we can conclude that the violence occurring in the country is encouraged and orchestrated by those who should start the process of eradication. To address this issue here are some suggestions brought out during the workshop:

- The need for education is very important. Education both in terms of formal education as well as human rights and other informal processes.
- The need to create opportunities for civil society, government, and international institutions to dialogue on concrete steps toward bringing Haiti into a path of peace and democracy.
- The current groups that participated in the workshop agreed to integrate community policing as an issue for police reform.

### **B. Regarding Youth Programs to Lessen Demand for Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The workshop included nine separate reports on integrated programs focused on lessening violence and the demand for weapons in Caribbean countries (Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago). These reports covered projects of different scale and stages of development. Most of them programs described employed an integrated strategy of community policing linked directly with youth work.

This concentration of regional experience is quite remarkable and offers the opportunity to the international community to study and evaluate a variety of successful programs in community policing and youth.

Here are some of lessons identified in the presentations and discussions:

- Most of the projects described have found that dealing with the root causes of youth violence leads away from an emphasis on criminal justice and punitive responses and instead focuses on interrelated actions in community economic and social development, education and alternative forms of non-violence conflict resolution. These actions are carried out in the context of the community's understanding that it is confronting a shared involvement in a wider "culture of violence". In the most extreme settings, where levels of deaths and injuries due to small arms violence are similar to those in wartime settings, analysts have proposed that the young people involved as perpetrators be considered as: "children in organized armed violence," similar in many ways to so-called "child soldier," with a right of access to rehabilitation and re-integration programs similar to those carried out in post-war peace programs.

- All of the current, ongoing programs that reported at the workshop have chosen to integrate a specific police reform program – community policing – with associated youth programming. This strategy aims to involve a defined community in collaboration with the police to provide a greater sense of security. Associated programs to change youth behavior are important because young males – children, teens and youth – are the community members most vulnerable to choosing or being recruited into armed violence.
- Education opportunities for youth are important, but there is no simple relationship between levels of schooling and participation in crime and violence. In some countries like Brazil, those young people most likely to be involved in criminal gangs are those with 4 to 7 years of schooling. Those with less schooling were less likely to be recruited. In other countries like Jamaica, experience has shown that length of schooling is not a simple determinant of positive social behavior for youth, but the higher the level of achievement by a student, the lower the chance they will be involved in violence or criminality.
- Each of the community-policing programs includes the creation of a community council, which directly advises the police about conditions, needs, perceptions and possible solutions to security problems. This council offers a space for direct communication and accountability that is otherwise lacking in the political system.
- The themes for youth activities are surprisingly similar across the various programs. These activities include: sports, music, and other arts, computer training, academic tutoring, job training, entrepreneurial support, and micro-credit. These are all subjects in which the youth are already interested, so it is relatively easy to encourage their participation. The direct involvement of community police staff in some of the programs increase trust between police and the community they serve.
- Finding appropriate police staff to lead a community-policing program is essential. It was underlined that this is not typical policing and often runs counter to the general organizational culture of local police forces. Community-policing is a major change in aims and activities and requires leadership that emphasizes communication, personal involvement, imagination and adaptability.

## **V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

To address the issue of small arms and light weapons it is necessary to focus not only on the supply side of the issue but also on the demand aspects. The question to understand the demand for small arms becomes: “What causes a person or a group to feel the need to have weapon?”

There can be no sustainable development with an insecure environment. Insecurity, which drives the demand for small arms, could result from many aspects of people’s lives, for example, from:

- Lack of honor, respect, and acknowledged role within an affinity group;
- Lack of basic physical needs such as food, shelter, or fuel;
- Lack of work, land, education;
- Lack of prestige goods that symbolized a positive life;
- Lack of protection from others who were armed and threatening, including other civilians, police, militias, and armed forces;

- Inadequate policing and ineffective judicial system;
- Lack of access to influence, decision-making, political power.

Guns were chosen by some people as tools to re-assert their values and their need to be secure. But the effect of choosing this tools and making use of it led to greater social insecurity for the wider society around them. The resulting gun violence was destroying social cohesion, wrecking infrastructure, scaring away investment, interfering with education, and denying the fruits of development to large numbers in many places north and south.

The workshop in Haiti focused not only on dealing with the demand for small arms and their impact, but also on work being done in a variety of ways in communities and by national and regional organizations across the greater Caribbean. The challenge is enormous, the inter-connections with broader issues of governance, prevention and resolution of conflict, and allocation of resources to address underlying causes are very complex, and the need for further research manifest:

1. Studies are needed of the impact of small arms demand on youth and their communities.
2. Research is needed on the interconnections of small arms demand with human development, access to and availability of social services, and economic development.
3. Examples of specific local programs dealing with reduction of demand for and misuse of small arms need to be assembled and their lessons fed into the consultations (under the aegis of the European Centre for Conflict Preventions, and CRIES in the Latin America and Caribbean Region ) leading to a UN-Civil Society Conference in New York in June 2005.
4. Research is needed on how coalitions of local human rights, women's development, youth and other organizations can work across sectors and issues to address complex problems of small arms demand.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

To prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW), the States participants in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Lights Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted a wide range of political undertakings at the national, regional and global levels. Among others, they undertook to:

#### **At the national level**

- Put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of SALW within their areas of jurisdiction, and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons,
- Identify groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition of illicit SALW, and take action under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals;
- Ensure that licensed manufacturers apply appropriate and reliable marking on each SALW as an integral part of the production process;
- Ensure that comprehensive and accurate records are kept for as long as possible on the manufacture, holding and transfer of SALW under its jurisdiction,
- Ensure responsibility for all SALW held and issued by the State and effective measures for tracing such weapons;
- Put in place and implement adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure the effective control over the export and transit of SALW, including the use of authenticated end-user certificates;
- Make every effort, without prejudice to the right of States to re-export SALW that they have previously imported, to notify the original exporting State in accordance with their bilateral agreements before the retransfer of those weapons;
- Develop adequate national legislation or administrative procedures regulating the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering;
- Take appropriate measures against any activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo;
- Ensure confiscated, seized or collected SALW are destroyed;

- Ensure that armed forces, police and any other body authorized to hold SALW establish adequate and detailed standards and procedures relating to the management and security of their stocks of these weapons;
- Develop and implement, where possible, effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;
- Address the special needs of children affected by armed conflict.

#### **At the regional level**

- Encourage regional negotiations with the aim of concluding relevant legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combat and eradicating the illicit trade, and where they do exist to ratify and fully implement them;
- Encourage the strengthening and establishing of moratoria or similar initiatives in affected regions or sub-regions on the transfer and manufacture of SALW;
- Establish sub-regional or regional mechanisms, in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law-enforcement, border and customs control agencies;
- Encourage regions to develop measures to enhance transparency to combat the illicit trade in SALW.

#### **At the global level**

- Cooperate with the United Nations system to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the Security Council;
- Encourage disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants and their reintegration into civilian life;
- Encourage States and the World Customs Organization to enhance cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to identify those groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects;
- Encourage international and regional organizations and States to facilitate the appropriate cooperation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW;
- Promote a dialogue and a culture of peace by encouraging education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW.

## APPENDIX B

### PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON ISSUES OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN THE GREATER CARRIBEAN.

**AFSC-Haiti**

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Managua, Nicaragua.  
Teléfono: (505) 278-5413, Fax: (505) 267-  
0517  
<http://www.ceinicaragua.org.ni/>

**Quisqueya International Organization for  
Freedom and Development**

QIFD  
P.O. Box 15741  
Petion Ville  
Haiti  
Tel. 509-404-3947  
Cel. 509-257-7557 or 257-7661

**Small Arms Survey**

47 Avenue Blanc  
1202 Geneve  
Switzerland  
Tel. +41-22-908-5781  
Fax +41-22-732-2738

**St. Lucia National Organization of  
Women**

P.O. Box GM893  
Castries, St. Lucia

**Tobago Youth Council**

Fairfield Complex  
Baldlet Street  
Scarborough  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel. 868-681-4839  
Fax 868-635-0280

**University of the West Indies  
Department of Government  
Faculty of Social Science**

UWI Mona Campus  
Kingston 7  
Jamaica  
Tel. 876-970-0438

**Viva Rio**

Ladeira da Glória, 98  
Glória  
Rio de Janeiro, RJ  
22211-120  
Brazil  
Tel. 55-21-2555-3750  
Fax 55-21-2558-1381  
Cel. 55-21-9238-2812

**Women's Institute for Alternative  
Development**

**2K, Longden Street**  
ARIMA  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel. 868-664-5439

## APPENDIX C

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND WEBSITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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McIntyre, Angela and Tanya Weiss, “Exploring Small Arms Demand: A Youth Perspective”, Institute for Security Studies, Paper 67, March 2003.

Muggah, Robert and Peter Batchelor, “Development Held Hostage: Assessing the Effects of Small Arms on Human Development,” United Nations Development Programme, April 2002

### **Important Web Sites**

- American Friends Service Committee – [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)
- Arias Foundation for Peace and human Progress – [www.arias.or.cr](http://www.arias.or.cr)
- Center for Humanitarian Dialogue – [www.hdcentre.org](http://www.hdcentre.org)
- Global Policy Forum -- <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/smallarms/salwindx.htm>
- International Action Network on Small Arms - <http://www.iansa.org>
- Quaker United Nations Office – [www.afsc.org/quno.htm](http://www.afsc.org/quno.htm)
- Small Arms Survey – [www.smallarmssurvey.org](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org)
- Viva Rio – [www.vivario.org.br](http://www.vivario.org.br)
- UNDP <http://www.undp.org/erd/smallarms/>
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Database on Research Institutes <http://dataris.sipri.org/>
- The Control Arms Campaign - <http://www.controlarms.org> Amnesty International, Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) have come together for ‘Control Arms’, a major global campaign launched in over 50 countries around the world .

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## APPENDIX D

### CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONTROL OF SMALL ARMS

Governments are acting too slowly to control arms. Every day in work around the world, Oxfam, Amnesty International and IANSA witness the abuse of arms which fuels conflict, poverty and violations of human rights. The Control Arms campaign is calling for urgent and coordinated action, from the local to the international level, to prevent the proliferation and misuse of arms. The campaign is calling for:

- International level: Governments to agree an Arms Trade Treaty to stop arms being exported to destinations where they are likely to be used to commit grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- Regional level: Governments to develop and strengthen regional arms control agreements, to uphold human rights and international humanitarian law.
- National level: Governments to improve state capacity and their own accountability to control arms transfers and protect citizens from armed violence, in accordance with international laws and standards.
- Community level: Civil society and local government agencies to take effective action to improve safety at community level, by reducing the local availability and demand for arms.

There is little time to lose: in the same minute in which one person dies from armed violence, 15 new arms are manufactured for sale. Who will take responsibility for the men, women and children who will certainly die or suffer from armed violence in the months and years ahead? The arms trade is out of control. Urgent action must be taken now.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.controlarms.org>