



# SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT UPDATE REPORT



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## SMALL ARMS

### Key Facts

Recent conflicts have been increasingly fuelled by the availability of small arms. The direct impact they have had on the maintenance of peace has presented new problems for the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. The Council has highlighted the importance of this issue by addressing small arms as one of the thematic issues that regularly appear on the Council's agenda, beginning in 1999 (see, for example, the first Council debate on small arms (S/PV.4048)). In the 2005 World Summit outcome document (A/RES/60/1), world leaders highlighted their concerns of the issue, and the document reflects the possibility of an emerging international consensus, at a minimum, on the need for regulation of illicit arms transfers.

Previously, the General Assembly had invited the Secretary-General to establish a panel of governmental experts on small arms in 1995 (A/RES/50/70 B). Debates have followed within the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, and UN agencies.

Worldwide, more than 640 million small arms and light weapons and 16 billion rounds of ammunition are in circulation today, with an additional 8 million new weapons entering the market each year. They are estimated by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva to be responsible for more than half a million deaths each year, including 300,000 in armed conflict. Of the 49 major conflicts in the 1990s, small arms were the key weapons in 47 of them. Small arms and light weapons have been sufficient to destabilise states and entire regions, increase the lethality and longevity of conflicts, obstruct relief programmes, undermine peace initiatives, exacerbate human rights abuses and hamper development. In his 2005 report, "In Larger Freedom," the Secretary-General noted that "the accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to be a serious threat to peace, stability and sustainable development."

Small arms are the most widespread, easily available and difficult to control of all the tools of war. Porous borders and cross-border arms trafficking have been highlighted in Council debates as a problem in controlling the trade in small weapons (S.PV 4720, S.PV 4896, S.PV 5127). Further, particularly during times of conflict and immediately after a conflict, poor government controls have allowed these weapons to shift from one conflict area to another.

As most countries affected by small arms violence are not arms producers themselves, attention has been focused on the supply of and trade in small arms. Small arms are supplied by states and by private dealers, both legitimate and illegitimate. Small arms are often repeatedly recycled across borders to refuel conflicts, amplifying the effect of the initial sale. In the UN, concern has focused

primarily on illegal arms sales, but the illicit trade is connected to the legal trade in small arms. The lack of transparency in even legitimate trade presents a significant challenge for its control.

Small arms represent a sizeable industry, valued at about US\$4 billion dollars a year in authorised trade and over US\$1 billion dollars a year in unauthorised trade. The top exporting countries, according to the Small Arms Survey 2005, include the United States, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Belgium, Russia and China. Tackling the issue at the Council level has been sensitive matter, as several member states themselves are the source of the small arms and light weaponry.

There are currently two main approaches to countering the problem of the proliferation of small arms. The “supply-side” approach focuses on increasing accountability and government regulation of small arms in their production, transfer, sale and end-user certification. This approach aims to prevent arms transfers to states and non-state actors who are likely to commit serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It entails the use of mechanisms such as sanctions, public pressure, weapons-marking and increased post-transfer oversight.

The second, “demand-side” approach recognises that, in some countries, the abundant pool of small arms already available will not be affected by supply-side strategies. This approach, therefore, seeks to curb the use of weapons already present by using external means such as peacekeeping operations to improve security within the state, while developing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, and scaling back the number of available weapons.

The Council has used both approaches in specific situations. The Council’s supply-side approach has focused primarily on imposing arms embargoes, which apply to both state and non-state actors, and has had mixed success. For example, the current arms embargo in Côte d’Ivoire has not proven to be effective. The report from the Group of Experts (S/2005/699) noted that the lack of clarity about the embargo led to possible violations, the tracking of small arms by Côte d’Ivoire officials was very opaque, and that multiple shipments of arms ignored the registration requirement of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Moratorium. The Council’s demand-side approach has also yielded mixed results. Despite the emphasis of Council members on the inclusion of DDR provisions in peace agreements, and as integral parts of UN peacekeeping mandates, DDR programmes themselves have had uneven success. For example, the failure of the DDR programme in Liberia in 1997 has been criticised as being partly responsible for the repeated outbreaks of conflict in that region.

### **Measures Adopted by the General Assembly**

At the thematic level, while there has been much discussion in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies about the problem of small arms, very few binding measures have been adopted. One example is the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (A/55/383/Add.2). This protocol, which entered into force on 3 July, currently has 47 parties and 52 signatories. The Protocol commits the parties to regulate the manufacture, export, import and transit of firearms. It also requires firearms to be marked and records to be kept for ten years, and encourages, but does not require the regulation of arms brokers. The Protocol only covers commercial transfers, and does not regulate state-to-state transfers.

In addition, there are two nonbinding measures of relevance. The first, the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (known as the PoA), was adopted by participating states at the Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in July 2001. The second, the International

Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2005 (A/C.1/60/L.55).

The PoA calls on states to implement legislation or other measures to criminalise the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade in small arms, and encourages the establishment of a small-arms registration system, through marking and tracking mechanisms. But the record of states in implementing the measures called for in the PoA is uneven. A comprehensive review conference is scheduled for July 2006, to discuss progress and, it is hoped, adopt a plan of action for the future. There will be pressure from NGOs and some states to strengthen this global instrument and to close some gaps in the document as it currently stands. Some of the gaps include the lack of explicit reference to state regulation of civilian possession and use of arms, the lack of clarity on international standards on arms transfers, the absence of measures to address arms transfers to non-state actors and a lack of a clear plan for tackling illicit production.

The Security Council first welcomed the PoA in a presidential statement in August 2001 (S/PRST/2001/21), and has continued to show support in subsequent statements (S/PRST/2002/30, 2004/1, 2005/7).

The second measure, the International Instrument, adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, was the product of four years of negotiations and represents a compromise between states pushing for a legally binding and comprehensive agreement, and a small group of states, including the United States, Iran and Egypt, reluctant to restrict the sale of small arms. This instrument, as agreed, sets up a system to record the serial numbers of small arms and light weapons when they are sold or transferred between countries. However, as it is nonbinding, compliance would be voluntary.

## **Regional Measures**

Small arms and light weapons have been addressed at a regional level as well. The result of one such effort in 1998 was the ECOWAS Moratorium on the import, export, manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons in West Africa. Unlike an arms embargo, a moratorium does not necessarily imply punishment, but acts as a preventative mechanism. However, while strong on paper, this initiative by ECOWAS has not been very effective in preventing new supplies of arms entering West Africa. Another was the EU Joint Action on Combating the Destabilising Accumulation and Spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which was adopted by the Council of the European Union in December 1998. These initiatives have shown the commitment of governments in principle to tackle the proliferation of small arms in their region.

## **Details of Council Involvement**

The Council first engaged the issue at a ministerial-level meeting on 24 September 1999, when it addressed the strengthening of arms embargoes and arms flows into regions engaged in or emerging from armed conflict. The Council further raised the issue of including the terms of DDR in specific peace agreements. Following the first UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the subsequent adoption of the PoA by participating states in July 2001, the Council held a day-long open debate on 2 August 2001 to examine its role in the implementation of the action programme. The presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/21) released later that month asked the Secretary-General to address the issue of small arms in his analytical reports on specific situations, as well as to submit a report containing concrete recommendations on ways and means in which the Council could contribute to efforts to address the problems presented by the small-arms proliferation.

The Secretary-General's report submitted in September 2002 (S/2002/1053) contained twelve

recommendations for Council action to:

- 1) encourage states to support efforts to develop an international document that would enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit arms and light weapons;
- 2) call on states to provide technical and financial support to the Interpol Weapons and Explosive Tracking System;
- 3) assist the Secretariat in establishing a small arms advisory service;
- 4) consider means to enhance interaction with the General Assembly in the context of the PoA;
- 5) enforce sanctions and arms embargoes;
- 6) continue efforts aimed at identifying links between illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and the illicit exploitation of other resources;
- 7) call on parties to conflicts to recognise the importance of DDR in post-conflict situations, and include such measures in the text of agreed documents;
- 8) strengthen financing for DDR;
- 9) encourage states to establish necessary legislative or other measures to ensure effective control over the export and transit of small arms and light weapons;
- 10) pursue more vigorously the use of arms embargoes, under article 41 of the UN Charter;
- 11) establish monitoring mechanisms for arms embargoes, and consider coercive measures against Member states that deliberately violate those embargoes; and
- 12) call upon states to enhance transparency in armaments, including through participation in the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the UN standardised instrument for reporting military expenditures.

In a presidential statement in October (S/PRST/2002/30) the Council took note with appreciation of the report and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of all his recommendations by the end of 2003.

The Secretary-General has since submitted two reports, in December 2003 and February 2005, on the progress towards the implementation of these recommendations. In his most recent report to the Council in February 2005 (S/2005/69) the Secretary-General noted progress in some areas such as the efforts to enhance cooperation to enable states to trace illicit arms and light weapons (recommendation 1); the recognition of the importance of DDR in post-conflict situations (recommendation 7); and the encouragement of states to establish national legislative measures to control the transit of small arms (recommendation 9). The Secretary-General commended Council action in particular with regard to the establishment, enforcement and monitoring of arms embargoes (recommendations 5, 10, and 11). He noted two areas of concern which require particular attention: the effectiveness of arms embargoes and the financing of DDR programmes. Overall, the articulation of the twelve recommendations by the Secretary-General has served to focus the attention of the Council members on specific actions related to addressing the problem of small arms.

The debates in the Council have explicitly linked the proliferation of small arms and the increase in the number of mercenaries to instability and threats to the peace and security in numerous areas. Furthermore, the proliferation of small arms has been linked to the growth in the numbers of child combatants in both international and internal armed conflicts. The Secretary-General has also pointed to the impact of small arms on the observed increases in civilian fatalities, particularly among women and children.

The Council has attempted to stem the flow of small arms in two main ways: first, by establishing

arms embargoes and focusing on funding for illicit arms, and second, by taking small arms and light weapons into account in conflict-prevention actions, peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding activities and by establishing DDR programmes.

### *Arms Embargoes and Monitoring Mechanisms*

Arms embargoes have recently been employed frequently by the Council in an effort to target specific regimes or rebel groups and their military capabilities. Effectively monitored and enforced arms embargoes have the potential to directly hamper the targeted parties' abilities to wage war and, as such, can become an effective mechanism for the Council. Under article 41 of the UN Charter, states have a legal obligation to abide by embargoes enacted by the Council. Small arms and light weaponry are typically covered by these arms embargoes, which may be applied to state or non-state actors. The 1990s saw the beginning of a proliferation of arms embargoes, some of which have since been terminated: Iraq (1990-2003), Libya (1992-2003), Somalia (1992-present), Haiti (1993-present), Angola (UNITA) (1993-2002), Rwanda (1994-present), Sierra Leone (1997-present), the former Yugoslavia (1991-1995 and 1998-2001), Ethiopia and Eritrea (2000-2001), the Taliban and Al-Qaida (2001-present), Liberia (2003-present), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (2003-present), Côte d'Ivoire (2004-present) and Sudan's Darfur region (2004-present).

In general there has been an improvement in recent years in the Council's efforts to monitor and enforce arms embargoes through the increased use of Groups of Experts and Monitoring Teams. Also, the Council has begun to address capacity issues in member states that inhibit sanctions enforcement at the local level. For example in the DRC the Council sought to monitor and strengthen the arms embargo, which had been found to be ineffective at stopping the flow of small arms into the region, with resolutions 1493 (2003), 1533 (2004) and 1565 (2004) which mandated the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) to monitor the arms embargo in the DRC, and to seize and collect arms whose presence violated the arms embargo imposed in resolution 1493. The Groups of Experts on the DRC provided a list of those found violating the arms embargo, and Council members continue to press the neighbouring states to enforce the embargo.

Purchases of illicit arms are frequently funded by the exploitation of resources such as diamonds, drugs and timber. The Council has endeavoured to address this linkage by imposing additional embargoes on these resources when appropriate. For example in July 2000 (S/RES/1306), the Council added an embargo on diamonds to its sanctions on Sierra Leone, and in December 2005 (S/RES/1643) to the sanctions regime on Côte d'Ivoire. The Panel of Experts on Liberia issued two reports in 2004 (S/2004/396 (annex) and S/2004/752 (annex)) with specific recommendations to Liberia to ensure that the revenue from the Liberian timber industry would not be used to fuel conflict in Liberia and neighbouring countries.

### *Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention*

The Council has also recognised the need to go beyond arms embargoes to tackle the problem of the destabilising effect of arms still present in a country in post-conflict situations. The presence of large amounts of small arms can often destabilise ongoing peace efforts and transitions towards stable and peaceful societies. Efforts in this area show the convergence of peacekeeping operations with development programmes. A key element increasingly in peacekeeping mandates is the demobilisation and disarmament of former combatants and the Council has been very involved in taking small arms out of the hands of former combatants.

The conventional approach used in early peacekeeping missions emphasised disarmament only after the ceasefire or peace agreement, followed by limited reintegration efforts. The first UN peacekeeping operation to undertake DDR was the UN Observer Group in Central America

(ONUCA), which began in 1989. Since then, peacekeeping operations have taken varying roles in the disarmament efforts. During the 1990s, it became clear that DDR efforts needed to become more clearly integrated into the peacekeeping missions and their mandates from the very beginning in order to secure the peace. In 1998, the Secretary-General first featured DDR as one of the priorities of peacekeeping missions in his report on peacekeeping in Africa (S/1998/318). Over the course of 1999, various Council presidential statements further highlighted the importance of successful DDR. The Secretary-General's report in February 2000 (S/2000/101) further articulated the role of the UN in DDR.

Today, DDR has come to occupy a central position in peacekeeping operations and transitions to peace. The Council has called for DDR to be made a central part of peace agreements. For example, resolution 1497, regarding Liberia, calls for the establishment of a DDR programme during the peace process. There are currently six peacekeeping missions with specific provisions for weapons collection and destruction in the planning and implementation phases of DDR:

- Burundi (resolution 1545, paragraph 5)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (resolutions 1291, paragraph 7 (c) and 1565, paragraph 4 (g))
- Côte d'Ivoire (resolution 1609, paragraphs 2 (d), (e), (f), (h), and (i))
- Haiti (resolution 1542, paragraph 7 I (c))
- Liberia (resolution 1509, paragraph 3 (f) and (g))
- Sudan (resolution 1590, paragraph 4 (iv)).

### **Underlying Problems**

Despite numerous arms embargoes, DDR campaigns and legal instruments, trade in illicit small arms continues to be a major and growing problem in many parts of the world. The issue remains controversial partly due to states' involvement in the production and the lucrative trade of the weapons themselves.

Support for supply side measures has also not been uniform: political will on the part of states involved in the supply and export of small arms to scale back their arms sales has been lacking as well. A second but related issue is that of legislation to track and trace sales of illicit small arms. Three of the top arms suppliers in the world, China, Russia and the United States, have opposed legally binding measures. Current or recent members of the Council who have called for legally binding measures include members of the EU, Argentina and Brazil. Further, the control of small arms supply is dependent on national legislation, the implementation of which has been uneven. Disparate approaches at national, sub-regional and regional levels have created loopholes, allowing arms suppliers to simply operate through countries with the weakest legislation.

On the demand side also, measures to tackle the problem of small arms has not been uniform. The strongest support for efforts has come from states such as the members of the EU, Norway and Canada. The least support has come from states such as Albania, Angola, China, Egypt, Iran and the United States, among others. The lack of consistent support for demand side measures can be seen, for example, in the difficulty in financing DDR programmes as part of peacekeeping operations (S/2005/69).

### **Next Steps**

The issue of small arms will be on the agenda of the Council in March. The Secretary-General is expected to report on small arms in February 2006. Additional attention will be focused on the issue when the PoA undergoes its first comprehensive review at a conference to be held from 26 June to 7 July 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Council is expected to address the impact of small arms on peace and security through:

- a presidential statement in March;
- the continued inclusion of small arms and light weaponry in arms embargoes imposed during times of conflict; and
- the inclusion of DDR programmes in peace settlements and peacekeeping operations.

## UN Documents

### Selected Security Council Resolutions

- S/RES/1631 (17 October 2005) stressed the role of regional organisations in addressing the issue of small arms.
- S/RES/1467 (18 March 2003) outlined measures to increase support for the ECOWAS Moratorium on small arms in West Africa with the declaration on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa.
- S/RES/1314 (11 August 2000) on “Children and Armed Conflict,” the Council noted the connection between illicit trade in small arms, the prolongation of conflict and the impact on children.
- S/RES/1296 (19 April 2000) on “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict,” the Council emphasised the importance of incorporating DDR in peace agreements.
- S/RES/1209 (19 November 1998) welcomed the ECOWAS Moratorium, and encouraged states to support the Moratorium.

### Selected Presidential Statements

- S/PRST/2005/7 (17 February 2005) called on arms-exporting countries to exercise the highest degree of responsibility in the trade in small arms and requested an update from the Secretary-General on the implementation of the twelve recommendations contained in his 2002 report, “Small Arms.”
- S/PRST/2004/1 (19 January 2004) called on UN member states to effectively implement arms embargoes and welcomed General Assembly resolution 58/241 which called for the Secretary-General to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to negotiate an international instrument to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons.
- S/PRST/2002/30 (31 October 2002) expressed grave concern at the harmful impact of small arms on civilians in situations of armed conflict, took note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's report of September 2002, which outlined twelve recommendations for further action, and encouraged all UN member states to continue efforts towards fully implementing at the national, regional and international levels the recommendations contained in the PoA. It asked the Secretary-General to report by December 2003 on the impact of the twelve recommendations.
- S/PRST/2001/21 (31 August 2001) requested the Secretary-General to submit a report by September 2002 containing specific recommendations on ways and means in which the Council could contribute to dealing with the question of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- S/PRST/1999/28 (24 September 1999) recognised the availability of small arms as a factor contributing to the intensity and duration of armed conflicts and in undermining peace agreements, and called for effective implementation of arms embargoes imposed by the Council.
- S/PRST/1999/21 (8 July 1999) recognised the role of small arms in conflicts and in destabilisation of post-conflict situations.

### Secretary-General's Reports

- S/2006/109 (17 February 2006) was the latest report.
- S/2005/69 (7 February 2005) on the implementation of the twelve recommendations laid out in the Secretary-General's report S/2002/1053.

- S/2003/1217 (31 December 2003) on small arms gave an update on efforts by UN member states in their implementation of the twelve recommendations.
- S/2002/1053 (20 September 2002) outlined the twelve recommendations to identify and trace illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- S/2000/1092 (15 November 2000) on Methods of Destruction of Small Arms, Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives.
- S/2000/101 (11 February 2000) on the role of the UN in DDR that included small arms and light weaponry among the primary targets of DDR operations, and highlighted the importance of tracing small arms and combating the illicit trade in small arms.
- S/1998/318 (13 April 1998) on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa emphasised the importance of DDR in peacekeeping missions, identified the proliferation of small arms as a threat to peace in Africa, and urged the Council to address the issue of illicit arms trade.

### **Security Council Debates**

- S/PV.5127 (17 February 2005) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4896, and resumption 1 (18 January 2004) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4720, and resumption 1 (18 March 2003) Debate on Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa
- S/PV.4623 and resumption 1 (31 October 2002) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4623 and resumption 1 (11 October 2002) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4362 (31 August 2001) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4355 (2 August 2001) Debate on Small Arms
- S/PV.4048 (24 September 1999) First Council discussion on Small Arms

### **General Assembly Documents**

- A/C.1/60/L.55 (12 October 2005) international instrument adopted by the General Assembly to enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons.
- A/RES/60/1 (24 October 2005) World Summit Outcome Document reiterated support for the 2001 Programme of Action, paragraphs 94 and 111.
- A/60/161 (25 July 2005) report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly summarised activities carried out at the national, sub-regional and regional levels by the Secretary-General, states and organisations to combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- A/60/88 (27 June 2005) report of the Open-Ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. An annex included the draft of this international instrument.
- A/59/2005 (21 March 2005) "In Larger Freedom" addressed small arms and called for better enforcement of arms embargoes, strengthening of DDR programmes, negotiating a legally binding instrument to regulate marking and tracing of small arms.
- A/RES/59/66 (10 December 2004) agreement for states to enact or improve national legislation on the transfer of arms, military equipment, dual-use goods and technology.
- A/RES/59/90 (3 December 2004) agreement to prevent the illicit transfer and unauthorised access to and use of Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS).
- A/RES/58/241 (9 January 2004) the General Assembly called on the Secretary-General to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to negotiate an international instrument to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons.
- A/58/138 (11 July 2003) final report by the Group of Governmental Experts on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.



- A/CONF.192/15 (20 July 2001) Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted by states.
- A/55/383/Add.2 (8 June 2001) Protocol Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime was signed.
- A/RES/53/92 (16 December 1998) pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General, "The Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa," which emphasised the importance of DDR in peacekeeping missions in Africa, the General Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.
- A/RES/51/45 F (10 December 1996) outlined measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms.
- A/RES/50/70 B (12 December 1995) the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms.
- A/RES/44/34 (4 December 1989) International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

### **Historical Background**

*September 2005* Continued support for the 2001 Programme of Action (PoA) was expressed by all states in the World Summit Outcome Document.

*11-15 July 2005* UN Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 was held.

*3 July 2005* The Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime signed entered into force with 45 signatories.

*2 December 2004* Council of the European Union decided to support the ECOWAS moratorium.

*23 December 2003* The General Assembly established Open-Ended Working Group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (OEWG).

*7-11 July 2003* UN First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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.

*June 2003* Barbara Frey, Special Rapporteur of the human rights Sub-Commission submitted second report on the impact of small arms and light weapons on human rights violations to the Commission on Human Rights.

*October 2002* The Council held an open meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

*August 2002* Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights appointed Frey as Special Rapporteur on the prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons.

*May 2002* Frey submitted first report on the impact of small arms and light weapons on human rights violations to the Commission on Human Rights.

20 October 2001 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries entered into force.

August 2001 Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights appointed Frey to report on the human rights implications of small arms.

August 2001 Council held first open debate on small arms, welcomed the Programme of Action on Small Arms and issued the first presidential statement specifically on small arms.

July 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held. States adopted its Programme of Action, which outlined national, regional and global measures intended to combat the illegal trade in small arms and highlighted role for the Council in addressing the issue of illicit trade in small arms.

December 2000 Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons was signed.

November 2000 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on Small Arms and Light Weapons was adopted.

1999 report of the Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms to the General Assembly.

December 1998 EU Joint Action on Combating the Destabilising Accumulation and Spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons was adopted by the Council of the European Union.

1998 A UN system-wide mechanism, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) was established.

1998 Moratorium was signed in Abuja by ECOWAS on the import, export and manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

1997 The Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms made its first report to the General Assembly.

1995 The Secretary-General established Panel of Government Experts on Small Arms.

### **Useful Additional Sources**

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, *Missing Pieces: Directions for Reducing Gun Violence through the UN Process on Small Arms Control*, July 2005. <http://www.hdcentre.org/?aid=133>

International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), *2005: Biting the Bullet, Report on the PoA*. <http://www.iansa.org/un/bms2005/red-book.htm>

*Small Arms Survey 2005: Weapons at War*  
[http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/yb\\_2005.htm](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/publications/yb_2005.htm)

*Small Arms and Light Weapons, Selected United Nations Documents, 2005*  
<http://disarmament2.un.org/cab/images/bookletsalw2005.PDF>

World Bank Position Paper: Linkages between Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants and Security Sector Reform, MRDP Secretariat Paper, Washington D.C.: World Bank and MDRP Secretariat. <http://www.mdrp.org/ssr-paper.pdf>