
PROJECT: THE UN COORDINATING ACTION ON SMALL ARMS
(CASA MECHANISM)

Disarmament focus: Small Arms
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Proposed timeframe: September 2009 – August 2010
Geographical focus: Global

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, which is chaired by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), is a mechanism created by the Secretary-General in 1998 aimed at formulating and implementing a coherent and cohesive UN approach to the issue of small arms. Currently CASA consists of 21 UN departments, offices, agencies, programmes and funds.¹ This wide spectrum of expertise has enabled CASA to tackle the multifaceted and multidisciplinary aspects of small arms control. The mechanism, however, has not been able to function in its full capacity due to lack of resources for its Secretariat.

The importance of the CASA mechanism was affirmed by the Secretary-General in his 2008 report to the Security Council on small arms, in which he identified “reviving the Coordinating Action on Small Arms as one of [his] priorities in the field of disarmament”.² CASA is finalizing a strategic framework, in which it identifies five strategic objectives:

1. To effectively contribute to the implementation of existing small arms instruments: the Firearms Protocol, the Programme of Action, and the International Tracing Instrument.
2. To ensure coordinated inputs into the Arms Trade Treaty process.
3. To develop, maintain and eventually review International Small Arms Control Standards.
4. To further coordinated approaches to armed violence prevention.
5. To enhance the work of the United Nations Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission related to small arms.

CASA is the most suitable mechanism through which the United Nations could respond to the requirements provided in the final outcome document of the Third Biennial

¹ CASA Participants (21): CTED, DESA, DPA, DPKO, DPI, ICAO, OCHA, OHCHR, OSRSG/CAAC, OSAA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDIR, UNMAS, UNIFEM, UNODA, UNODC and WHO. For more details of CASA, please see “Developing International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)” project.

² A/2008/258

Meeting of States, particularly in assisting Member States in building capacity to assess their assistance needs and to translate these into concrete projects with measurable goals. This would be in line with the fact that this year Member States recognized the necessity to develop an effective coordination mechanism to match the needs of Member States with existing resources to make international cooperation and assistance more effective.³

OBJECTIVES

- To optimize the function of the CASA mechanism as a tool for policy coordination within the UN system regarding the issue of small arms;
- To develop operational capacity of CASA in the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a specific focus on assistance to Member States in capacity-building and facilitation of matching needs for international assistance with available resources, including through the effective management of information provided through the Programme of Action Implementation Support System (PoA-ISS); and
- To ensure adoption and implementation of the strategic framework of CASA for 2009-2013.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

As the first step towards the implementation of the project, a full-time project coordinator will be recruited in order to support the functioning of CASA Secretariat. Then, concrete measures should be undertaken to enhance the profile of the CASA mechanism and to ensure coordination and effective implementation of CASA projects such as the development of the International Small Arms Control Standards, the inter-agency Armed Violence Prevention Project and the further development and maintenance of the PoA-ISS.

IMPACT

- Improved policy coordination on the issue of small arms and other relevant issues within the UN system;
- Enhanced capacity to assist Member States in assessing their assistance needs and translating them into concrete projects with measurable goals;
- Enhanced operational and advisory capacity of the CASA mechanism;
- More focused international assistance by facilitating matching needs with existing resources, leading to a more efficient application of resources; and
- Improved efficiency and coordination in the implementation of relevant CASA projects.

BENEFICIARIES

Improved coordination and strengthened operational capacity of the CASA mechanism will benefit stakeholders of the UN Programme of Action on small arms, including Member States, NGOs and inter-governmental and regional organizations that interact with CASA and its seventeen members in providing international assistance.

PARTNERS

³ The draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.57 was adopted by the First Committee in November 2008 and is expected to be adopted by the General Assembly at its 63rd session.

Seventeen CASA participants.

BUDGET ITEMS	IN US\$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Personnel (12 w/m at P3 level)	150,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations and Implementation Costs	50,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme Support Cost	26,000
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED	226,000

<i>TOTAL INDICATIVE PLEDGES</i>	<i>(40,700)</i>
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FUNDING GAP	185,300
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