

## **Intervention Text – Human Development Delivered Friday, 15 July 05**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Previous speakers have provided some excellent insights on the SALW issue within the broader development context. Clearly, action on this issue is not only complementary to, but in many circumstances, is a prerequisite to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The fact that the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD has ruled that contributions to SALW can be classified as Official Development Assistance could have profound implications, both with respect to the way the issue is addressed nationally and internationally, and the level and nature of the resources that can be brought to bear.

It suggests that countries seriously affected by violence involving SALW can and should regard this as both a human security and a development priority, and include it in their national strategies – especially Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) – as well as relevant sector strategies – and also be prepared to allocate substantial national resources in support of action in this area.

It is important, of course, to be as strategic as possible in the selection of interventions to achieve the greatest results. In addition to addressing the supply side of the issue by ensuring that arms are only in the hands of those who would use them responsibly, we strongly encourage greater attention to the demand side by supporting the type of violence prevention programming described so eloquently earlier this week by the WHO, that addresses the underlying issues that can lead to violence – thus avoiding the problem in the first place.

Equally important are activities of a more traditional development nature that help create the conditions where peoples' essential needs are met, and thus are less inclined to resort to violence.

When an affected country does not have adequate resources available to properly address the problem, appeals for support should be made to the international community. Given the multi-dimensional nature of the problem, requests should be directed to disarmament, humanitarian, and development actors.

Where circumstances warrant, we strongly recommend inclusion of SALW programming in the Official Development Assistance programs of donor countries, UN Common Country Assessments and Development Assistance Frameworks, the Country Assistance Strategies of International Financial Institutions including the World Bank, and Regional Development Banks. Similarly, into the programs of NGOs and other civil society actors.

As we know, there is much to be gained through coordination and collaboration – globally, regionally and locally. In order to increase effectiveness, we suggest that the governments of states that are seriously affected by armed violence bring together all key actors in the disarmament, humanitarian and development communities on a regular basis to share information in order to improve our collective understanding of this complex problem, and encourage practical, results-oriented joint programming in this regard, we encourage developing country governments to include this community in the formal Consultative Group process that brings together development actors in a timely and regular fashion.

As well, we must systematically measure progress, account for resources, report on results achieved and – very importantly – ensure that lessons learned inform future programming decisions. These should also be widely disseminated so we can learn from each others’ experience.

With this in view, Canada and – we believe – many others, would find it useful if well researched roles on “Best Practices” in each of the Thematic Areas we have discussed – and others such as ‘development mainstreaming,’ victim assistance, human rights, and human security, could be produced well in advance of the Review Conference to further inform our discussion during this event – and help us to elaborate the UN Program of Action, leading to a more comprehensive and enriched document which will guide our actions for years to come – including serving as the basis for agreed norms and standards and legally binding instruments, where appropriate.

Canada is fully committed to working with others in this community to this end.

Thank you.