

Problems in the implementation of the UN Programme of Action with  
specific emphasis on International Cooperation and Assistance and  
Best Practices of small arms and light weapons (SALW) projects

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**Canadian Remarks**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Rather than providing a case study, if I may take a minute or two to outline how Canada is approaching this issue.

First of all, we take a people-centred approach and we measure success on how we have helped to reduce the devastating impact of misuse of small arms and light weapons on people and communities around the world.

Canada takes an integrated approach to the small arms issue using three mutually reinforcing tracks - arms control, crime control and peacebuilding at the individual, community, national, regional and global levels.

This involves many actors working in concert including government departments such as Foreign Affairs, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, National Defence, and the Canadian International Development Agency working closely with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, police service organizations, research institutions and civil society to ensure that our efforts are comprehensive and effective. We cooperate with other governments, UN agencies, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the actual delivery of projects and programmes.

Canada's National Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons provides an opportunity for all key Canadian stakeholders to share and update information and coordinate action on implementing the Programme of Action (PoA) in all its aspects.

Canada has contributed modest resources to projects and programmes such as the UNDP Arms for Development project in Sierra Leone through the West Africa Peace and Security Initiative; destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons and their ammunition; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); action-oriented research; building capacities of police forces and other actors; public health and injury prevention and so on.

We undertake all projects in a manner that is sensitive to and informed by gender perspectives and the special needs of children.

We recognize that there remains an enormous gap in meeting the needs of affected States. Mr. Chair, our work has only just begun at this point in our

history. Small arms and light weapons kill and maim more people than all other weapons systems combined.

Included in Canada's proposal for an informal intersessional programme of work is the development of strategies to generate the financial and technical resources required to fully implement the UN Programme of Action and address issues related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

I will mention five (5) lessons learned:

- 1) we benefit from an integrated, comprehensive approach;
- 2) we have a lot to learn and some useful experiences to relate;
- 3) after hearing what others have said over the last few days – opportunities like this are useful and too rare, and we need more of them;
- 4) there is no substitute for global fora; and
- 5) we must redouble our efforts and commitment to implementation of the PoA.

Thank you.