



United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research  
Institut des Nations Unies pour la recherche sur le désarmement

Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Genève 10  
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 31 86  
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 01 76

[www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org)

**Intervention by Dr. Patricia Lewis, Director, UNIDIR  
2006 UN Programme of Action Review Conference  
29 June 2006**

Mr. President, colleagues:

I should like to take this opportunity to present the key findings from UNIDIR's research projects over the past five years. I hope these will emphasize the important contribution that the action-oriented research of UNIDIR and others makes to the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

UNIDIR's research on financial and technical assistance that has been supported by the governments of Austria and Finland has found that at least USD 630 million has been allocated to assist over 86 countries implement the Programme of Action since 2001. The number of partnerships has risen steadily over the past five years, and some states have established or are considering national plans of action to help them identify national priorities. Yet this funding is not particularly significant when compared with assistance provided to the mine action community, which received about USD 400 million in 2004 alone. We found that there is a lack of coordination and coherence for giving and receiving assistance. This is an area that needs urgent improvement to maximize the benefits of implementing the Programme of Action.

This work allows donors and implementing agencies to recognize and target areas of specific needs and gaps, while also ensuring that certain issues and recipient countries are not neglected for more temporarily fashionable ones. It will also assist donor and organization coordination and alert them to competing or duplicated efforts. These findings will help states and organizations improve their matching of resources to needs.

The collaborative project "Capacity Development for Reporting to the UN Programme of Action" that is carried out by UNDP, UNIDIR, DDA and SAS, and funded by the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the UK, has held a series of regional and national workshops, providing detailed assistance to national agencies and government departments on the reporting process and the delivery of targeted assistance. It also provides states with a reporting template, fact-sheets and direct assistance on small arms issues to guide them through the reporting process. As part of this research, UNIDIR has conducted analyses of the reports made by states on the implementation of the PoA. This has fed into the capacity-building effort and has enabled states, international organizations and NGOs to monitor the reporting mechanism of the PoA. A key finding from this project is that in building capacity for reporting, capacity for implementation has also been built.

Research funded by the European Union and the United Kingdom on European action on small arms and light weapons has illustrated the need for a comprehensive approach that requires the integration of the issue into development and humanitarian assistance,

not just security matters. This has to be done at all levels, including into political structures for an enhanced impact on the ground.

At a more macro-level, UNIDIR's Disarmament for Humanitarian Action project, funded by the Netherlands and Norway, aims to develop new perspectives and also to assist multilateral disarmament and arms control negotiators (including those involved in small arms) in functional terms, including through the introduction of humanitarian approaches. Current research focuses on innovative approaches from the natural sciences and, more specifically, on complexity theory. In that context, a non-linear model describing how small arms and light weapons may proliferate through a civilian population has been developed. Key to the model is the simulation of social interactions between people. In many cases, indeed, people are influenced by others' behaviour, and this is likely to be especially true where perceptions of security or insecurity are concerned that might lead people to want to arm themselves. In this respect, the model differs from traditional economic models that assume people take decisions on a rational basis, regardless of how others behave.

Through applying participatory monitoring and evaluation techniques that placed community members at the centre of our impact assessment of weapons for development programming, UNIDIR identified key criteria for successful and more cost-effective weapons collection. Through our research in Albania, Cambodia and Mali, funded by Japan, we know that involving local communities in identifying incentives to give up weapons will significantly improve the efficacy of DDR and other weapons collection programmes, and thus enhance people's security more cost-effectively. In particular, the role of women is vital when developing and implementing weapons collection programmes as they have knowledge of where weapons are and who is trafficking within the local environment. As a follow on development UNIDIR is working with partners to develop an in-field protocol to assess the security needs of local communities.

The importance of women carrying out DDR functions is highlighted in our work on training women for DDR, funded by Norway - women can work with local women in DDR programmes. In addition, UNIDIR worked closely with DPKO in developing the UN IDDRS (Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Standards).

The Cost Benefit Analysis Model, developed in partnership with South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and in collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation and Security (CICS) at Bradford University, allows states to compare the potential benefits from sale versus the cost of storage by estimating the real costs involved in ammunition and weapon storage. The model is applicable to all regions that wish to make this useful and practical assessment.

In partnership with DDA and SAS, UNIDIR is conducting a study on "The Scope and Implications of Developing a Mechanism to Prevent the Illicit Brokering on Small Arms", which is funded by the Netherlands and Norway. This aims to enhance the understanding of brokering activities and will assist states in framing the problem better, to define the scope of a potential international instrument to control illicit brokering and transfers, and to identify possible alternatives for regulating brokering. The findings will be published in order to contribute to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Brokering.

Research, funded by Norway, on transfers of small arms within West Africa examines the possibility of forging a regional strategy to successfully combat the SALW problem in West Africa by the Economic Community of West African States. It looks at regional dynamics and pays particular attention to the impact of cross-border SALW transfers, stockpile management and craft production on conflict prevention and post-conflict disarmament policies in the region.

Finally, we'd like to leave you with an idea. As part of our work on the costs of disarmament, UNIDIR can now demonstrate what many of you already know - that disarmament costs are usually wrongly attributed.<sup>1</sup> Many of the costs are in fact normal life cycle costs of weapon systems and thus should be borne by manufacturers and other who profit by them.

Just as a car is taxed and part of that tax is allocated to the clean up of scrapped vehicles, the same could apply to weapons. Consider it as a retirement plan for small arms that recognizes that some of the legal trade will be diverted to the illicit. Legal producers and legal brokers involved in legal transfers pay tax to the countries in which they operate. On a national basis, part of this tax could be set aside to pay for DDR, weapons collection programmes and survivor assistance. Such a practice would incur no extra cost for the industry, no extra cost for the governments that are already funding DDR, weapons collection programmes and survivor assistance. Rather it would serve only to assign the costs to the correct entities and thus relieve development and foreign assistance budgets of these costs, enabling them to use them for other useful purposes.

Thank-you, Mr. President.

---

<sup>1</sup> Susan Willett, *Costs of Disarmament – Rethinking the Price Tag: A Methodological Inquiry into the Costs and Benefits of Arms Control*, UNIDIR, 2002.