

Intervention: Capacity Building, Institution Building and Resource Mobilization. Delivered 14 July 05

- Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a statement that addresses all three issues under this theme: Capacity Building, Institution Building and Resource Mobilization.
- In Canada's view, international cooperation through capacity building is a key to the success of the UN Programme of Action. Rightly so, the Programme of Action envisages cooperation among governments, international organizations, regional organizations and civil society.
- Capacity challenges relating to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action are many, including the absence of legislation and administrative procedures. Challenges also include institutional shortcomings where relevant laws and administrative processes are in place. The absence of inter-agency coordination, lack of equipment for border patrols and surveillance, limited law enforcement capacity, lack of facilities and training for the collection and destruction of small arms, along with inadequate record-keeping all constitute typical institutional challenges.
- From our perspective, gaps in capacity can be reduced through the creation of national coordinating bodies, with active local civil society participation. National coordinating bodies can serve as a platform for identifying gaps in local capacity and for channelling capacity-building assistance. Canada has been very active in contributing to the creation of national coordinating bodies in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, with a view to support implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms and the UN Programme of Action.
- Gaps in capacity can also be closed through the work of regional organizations. Regional organizations can serve not only as a forum for policy-making, but also for the dissemination of best practices. Canada has deployed an expert in the small arms unit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with a view to enhancing coordination of the measures to tackle the problem of small arms in the sub-region.
- Mr. Chairman, resource mobilization is crucial to the effectiveness of international assistance where capacity-building is needed. In our view, international organizations such as UNDP have a major role to play in pooling resources towards a common end. UNDP, for instance, has mobilized resources from the Governments of Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom to undertake a major weapons-for-development project in Sierra Leone.

- Canada encourages further cooperation in capacity building, institution building, and resource mobilization and looks forward to playing an active role in this regard.