

## UNIDIR FOCUS

### PROJECT UPDATE

#### ***Implementing the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Analysis of the National Reports Submitted by States from 2002 to 2008***

As part of the ongoing project Capacity Development for Reporting to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR presented a draft report to the 2008 Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which analysed all national reports submitted since the adoption of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), covering the period from 2002 to 2008.

Unlike the previous biennial meetings of states (BMS) to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the PoA, the third BMS focused on a select number of issues identified through consultation with states and civil society: illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, stockpile management and surplus destruction, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument). As a cross-cutting issue, the meeting also discussed international cooperation and assistance and national capacity-building.

UNIDIR's PoA study analyses national implementation of PoA commitments relating to these focus themes as reflected in the reports that states submitted to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. A review of national reports indicates that significant efforts are being made by states to fulfil their commitments under the PoA and to curb the illicit trade in small arms.

This report is the third in a series of national report analyses (2004 and 2006). The draft report is available on the UNIDIR web site, at <[www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org)>, and the final analysis report will be published before the end of 2008, taking into consideration feedback on the draft report and updated reporting from the BMS. Its aim is to enhance reporting by states to the end of providing a more comprehensive picture of the progress that is being made to implement the PoA, thus increasing international cooperation and assistance to help states implement their PoA commitments, and ensure that global efforts to implement the PoA are coordinated and sustained.

---

In each issue of *Disarmament Forum*, UNIDIR Focus highlights one activity of the Institute, outlining the project's methodology, recent research developments or its outcomes. UNIDIR Focus also describes a new UNIDIR publication. You can find summaries and contact information for all of the Institute's present and past activities, and download or order our publications, online at <[www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org)>.

For more information, please contact:

***Kerstin Vignard***

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 1582

Fax: +41 (0)22 917 0176

E-mail: kvignard@unog.ch

**NEW PUBLICATION**

***Implementing Resolution 1540: The Role of Regional Organizations***

Over the past several years, there has been progressive recognition of the relevance and value of regional and subregional organizations in the area of peace and security, with particular reference to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Resolution 1540 is one in a series of measures taken to address threats deriving from access to, or use of, weapons of mass destruction, related materials and means of delivery. It is distinct from existing treaty-based non-proliferation and arms control regimes—the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, for example—in several respects: it covers all weapons of mass destruction and it reaches beyond the state and focuses explicitly on the risk posed by non-state actors. It also goes beyond existing anti-terrorism conventions that collectively impose similar though less comprehensive obligations on parties in that, being adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the resolution is binding on all Member States of the United Nations.

The Security Council recognizes the important role that regional and subregional organizations play in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the fight against terrorism and illicit weapons: while implementation of national controls is a national responsibility, priorities should be set by national governments and regional organizations. It can be easier to set priorities and deal with national controls in regional rather than in bilateral or universal forums.

This book examines the experiences of regional organizations in Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands, to the end of identifying what these organizations can do to motivate and assist their members, and invest them with ownership of the problems posed by weapons of mass destruction and non-state actors.

***Implementing Resolution 1540: The Role of Regional Organizations***

Lawrence Scheinman (ed.)

UNIDIR, 2008

176 pages

Sales number G.V.E.08.0.1

ISBN 9789-92-9045-190-7

English

US\$25 (plus shipping and handling)