

**Confoederatio Helvetica, Swiss Confederation**

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The issue before the Disarmament and International Security Committee is:

1. The impact of the uncontrolled spread of illegal small arms and light weapons on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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*The Swiss Confederation welcomes the recommendations made in “Small Arms, Report of the Secretary-General”<sup>1</sup> and supports their implementation. The Swiss Confederation recognizes the impact that the spread of illegal small arms and light weapons has on the realization of the MDGs. The Swiss Confederation is committed to controlling the spread of these illegal small arms and light weapons and is committed to the realization of the MDGs within the framework of the UN Charter. The Swiss Confederation seeks cooperation between States in order to halt the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.*

Armed conflict is a major obstacle to development. Many armed conflicts are assisted by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This illicit trade allows armed conflict to continue despite the efforts of States to solve conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. In order to meet the MDGs, it is essential that people live in conflict-free zones. Preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons will assist in preventing conflict and thus assist in creating conflict-free zones. Since virtually no region of the world is immune to the effects of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, it is of vital importance that the international community come to agreement on a comprehensive solution to this issue.

Since the *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*<sup>2</sup>, the Swiss Confederation has been committed to preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The Swiss Confederation accepts the “Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects”<sup>3</sup>, and has worked tirelessly with other nations toward implementing its goals. However, despite our efforts, we recognize there is still significant work ahead.

In Geneva, on 7 June 2006, the Swiss Confederation, along with 41 other States, reiterated its commitment to the Report and Programme of Action by signing “The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development” (“Geneva Declaration”). Along with 11 other States, the Swiss Confederation is responsible for leading the implementation of the Geneva Declaration. In addition, the

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<sup>1</sup> S/2008/258. Apr. 17, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.192/15. Jan. 9-20, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Pp 7-9.

Swiss Confederation has the special responsibility of coordinating the activities of the Group of 12. The Swiss Confederation is thus well positioned to be a leader on solutions to this issue.

In Geneva, on 7 June, 2007, the Group of 12 established “A Framework for the Implementation of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development”. Some of our goals included bringing other States to commit to the Geneva Declaration and tabling a UN General Assembly draft resolution on Armed Violence and Development by 2008. Many States have since signed the Geneva Declaration and, currently, the First Committee has been tirelessly drafting resolutions on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. However, many of our goals remain unmet. The Swiss Confederation desires to meet these goals.

Specifically, the Swiss Confederation desires that States complete and submit national reports detailing progress on their efforts to prevent the spread of small arms and light weapons within their borders by no later than the end of 2009, in accordance with UN Resolution 63/72<sup>4</sup>. As well, the Swiss Confederation seeks States to implement the International Tracing Instrument.<sup>5</sup> Finally, the Swiss Confederation seeks to build upon the efforts of the Group of Government Experts and UN Resolution 63/240 towards the creation a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.” *A/RES/63/72*. Jan. 12, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> “International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.” *A/CONF.192/15*. Dec. 8, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> “Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.” *A/RES/63/240*. Jan. 8, 2009.