



INTRODUCTION

This report demonstrates the impressive recent progress in developing a programme to tackle the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.

Senior police officers from the subregion and representatives of subregional intergovernmental organisations drafted an action programme to tackle the proliferation of small arms at a meeting in Kampala on 31 January – 1 February 2000. The seminar was organised by the Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC) and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), fully supported by Saferworld and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

This action programme identified the need for action in four broad areas: strengthening legal controls over the accumulation and transfer of small arms; enhancing operational capacity to combat illicit arms trafficking; removing and destroying surplus small arms, and developing education programmes; and enhancing the capacity of subregional organisations for implementation.

The Kenyan government organised a major conference on 11-15 March 2000 where foreign ministers from ten countries signed the *Nairobi Declaration on the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa*. This is a vital statement of political intent that now paves the way for practical action.

This publication is the report of a meeting of senior police officers, government officials, representatives of subregional organisations and non-governmental organisations in Dar es Salaam on 7-8 May 2000. It contains interesting new information about the priorities of governments and subregional organisations. It also includes a series of detailed proposals for the implementation of the *Nairobi Declaration* and the draft subregional action programme.

We hope that this report adds to the debate on the action required to combat the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. And we hope that it provides a spur to address this important challenge.

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