



## SESSION SEVEN

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### Policy into practice – Towards implementation

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#### SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

**P**articipants agreed that the following are priority areas for action to tackle the proliferation of small arms in the subregion:

##### Research needs

- Research into *legislation and controls* – for example, best practice in regulating civilian firearm ownership, end-user certificates and policy on seizures: Different national legislation should be compared, best practice should be identified, and areas where relevant provisions can be standardised should be highlighted.
- Research to help identify *the nature of the problem* in different countries: Mapping exercises and community surveys are vital in identifying priorities for attention across the subregion.
- Research on *key thematic issues*: for example, developing a manual on best practice in community policing, and investigating the needs of marginalised communities.

##### Operational aspects

- *Co-ordinated national training for different agencies*: police, customs, border guards, military, and others.
- *National consultations on state arsenals and seized illicit stocks*: These should involve all roleplayers (the police, military, and others) and should develop policies on how to deal with accumulations of small arms and light weapons.
- *Conduct inventories* of all small arms and light weapons in state stocks.
- *Undertake joint training exercises* across borders and across the region as a whole.

- *Establish a regional database* on illicit seizures and stolen firearms.
- *Improve information exchange* as appropriate on national firearms registers.

### **Capacity-building**

- *Establish national firearms bureaux.*
- *Provide equipment and technical expertise* to the police and other key government departments.
- *Strengthen regional and subregional organisations:* This requires effective mandates, political support, human and material resources.
- *Support NGOs* across the region that can help with research, access donor assistance and facilitate meetings.

### **Awareness-raising**

- *Develop education programmes* to change the culture of gun dependency and raise awareness of the *Nairobi Declaration*.
- *Establish awareness-raising programmes* to encourage communities to work with the police to safeguard their own security.
- *Establish development programmes* targeted at marginalised communities to raise awareness of alternative means for socio-economic development.
- *Survey community views and needs.*

### **Clarifying the roles of subregional organisations**

Participants emphasised the importance of developing an effective division of labour between the subregional organisations. Further study of the following approach was proposed:

- *EAPCCO* could focus on operational issues and on implementing the measures outlined in pillar two of the Kampala draft subregional action programme.
- *EAC* could focus on establishing and strengthening legal controls and the measures outlined in pillar one of the Kampala draft subregional action programme.
- *IGAD* could focus on the development, education and demobilisation issues outlined in pillar three of the Kampala draft subregional action programme.
- The *Nairobi Secretariat* could play a co-ordinating and facilitating role.

Participants also agreed on the following declaration which summarises the main decisions and makes proposals for further action.