

# Enhancing the capacity of national law enforcement and security agencies

This commitment is underscored in paragraph 3A(ii) of the Bamako Declaration. It is recognised that, in order to deal effectively with all aspects of the arms problem, appropriate training in investigative procedures, border control and specialised actions, and upgrading of equipment and resources, remain critical. Capacity building for law enforcement agencies and security personnel takes the form of training and purchase of equipment. The initiative is either by national governments through their budgetary allocation or under bilateral or multilateral arrangements with United Nations and donor agencies. It was not possible to assess national efforts to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies in all the seven countries. Scant information was available on Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa.

In Ethiopia, the National Focal Point hopes to include special training on SALW for law enforcement agents in the national action plan. As Yemaneh stated, “capacity assessment has not been made but efforts will be made to do so when the NFP stands on its feet.”<sup>64</sup>

Information exchange among law enforcement agencies is common, especially when the information is sensitive. Considering the federal arrangement of the country, past training programmes were offered to various sections of the police at regional level. However, the need for a uniform training programme has prompted the bureau for training and research of the federal police to consider standardising the curriculum.<sup>65</sup>

64 *Op cit*, Interview with Chief Inspector Yemaneh, 24 January 2004

65 *Ibid*.

Under the Federal Police, the Bureau for Training and Research has conducted several studies focusing mainly on the nature and dynamic of crime. It found that the underlying source of crime in the majority of cases is directly or indirectly related to illegal possession, circulation, trafficking and proliferation of SALW. These findings also revealed the impact of small arms on the individual, the community and the nation as a whole.<sup>66</sup>

In the last year the Kenyan government has purchased over 107 assorted vehicles for the Kenya police and increased their salaries. In addition, civil society organisations in Kenya have also mounted capacity-building workshops either at national or regional levels for security personnel.

At the regional level, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, the Nairobi Secretariat, in conjunction with the national focal points, has developed a draft training curriculum designed to equip senior management and practitioners with the necessary skills to implement the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Protocol. The curriculum addresses a number of diverse topics on the problem of small arms, all aimed at providing the trainees with an understanding of the complex nature of the SALW problem, with emphasis on the existing collective security systems. The draft training curriculum was approved at a workshop attended by National Focal Point Co-ordinators in October 2003.

According to Mr Richard Nabudere of the Uganda Focal Point, the curriculum has various components targeting the politicians who are engaged in mobilisation; the senior management officials in government departments, such as the Permanent and Under Secretaries, Commissioners and Directors, who are engaged in policy formulation and implementation; the practitioners such as the police, customs and immigration officers; and civil society.<sup>67</sup> He adds that there has been hardly any harmonisation of training policies of the various law enforcement agencies or co-ordination of the actual training itself. According to Mr

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Op cit*, interview with Mr Richard Nabudere, the Uganda Focal Point Co-ordinator, 17 December 2003.

Nabudere, the NFP is trying to operationalise the agreed curriculum in Uganda and harmonise training of the various law enforcement agencies.<sup>68</sup> Once this is done, according to him, this will be the basis for further training.<sup>69</sup>

The Nairobi Secretariat has also developed an operational guideline to improve the regional co-ordinating capacity and restructure the calendar of activities to meet the new challenges.

In West Africa, donor support for capacity building at a regional level is impressive. The UN and its related agencies have conducted several training programmes. In the West African context, Senegal is said to have one of the most effective law enforcement agencies in terms of the detection and destruction of weapons. Most of the capacity-building programmes for Senegal have been provided by France; the United States International Military Exchange Training (IMET); the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI); and the African Contingency Operation Training Assistance programme (ACOTA). Other international agencies working to improve SALW controls in West Africa include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (BCPR) process.

Civil society has also contributed towards enhancing the capacity of the law enforcement agencies. For example, the South African-based ISS facilitated the First SARPCCO Workshop on Regional Standards for the Marking, Tracing and Record Keeping of Firearms and Disposal of State-Owned Firearms in April 2003. The workshop took place from 3–4 April in Harare, Zimbabwe and formed part of SADC's implementation strategy for the Protocol. The workshop was mandated by the Chiefs of Police at the SARPCCO 7th Annual General Meeting and was in line with the approved SARPCCO Action Plan on [the] SADC Protocol. An equally important training workshop was the one that took place from 27–31 October 2003 in Victoria, Seychelles, entitled Enhancing Co-operation and Co-ordination. It drew participants from nine countries of

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

Eastern Africa,<sup>70</sup> and the Interpol Sub-regional Bureau (SRB) for Eastern Africa, was sponsored by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and facilitated by representatives of the SAPS, the Interpol General Secretariat (IPSG), the Interpol SRB, Nairobi, and the ISS.

<sup>70</sup> Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, the Seychelles, the Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.