

**United Nations Workshop on SALW for South Asia and Southeast Asia
“Towards the Review Conference on the Implementation of the
Programme of Action ”**

Report of the Working Group for South Asian States

The United Nations Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for South Asia and Southeast Asia was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17 – 19 May 2006. The Workshop was organized by the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Governments of Canada, Japan and Thailand, and UNDP.

Following presentations by participating States in Plenary II, representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met during the Working Group Session for South Asian States and discussed various aspects of the implementation of the UN *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, adopted at the 2001 UN Conference.

The participants in the Working Group for South Asian States

1. *Expressed* their appreciation to the Regional Centre and the sponsors for providing a unique opportunity to discuss the issue of illicit trade in SALW in the subregion.
2. *Reaffirmed* their strong commitment to fully implement the Programme of Action;
3. *Committed* themselves to establish or strengthen national coordination agencies or bodies in order to fully coordinate national efforts to tackle the problems related to the illicit trade in SALW;
4. *Stressed* the need to intensify the exchange of information in all areas relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action within the subregion;
5. *Underscored* the importance of cooperation between Governments and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

6. *Reiterated* the need for international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, technical and financial assistance to promote national and regional efforts to implement the Programme of Action;
7. *Agreed* to promote increased regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation, including the exchange of information on national experiences in implementing the Programme of Action and, where possible, the development of joint initiatives to promote such implementation.
8. *Shared* the following issues and concerns in relation to the illicit trade in SALW in the subregion:
 - The humanitarian and other negative implications arising from the illicit trade in SALW
 - The multiple linkages with, in particular, drug trafficking and terrorism
 - Effective border control
 - Improved national normative frameworks
 - The need for increased awareness and capacity-building of relevant national agencies
 - Coordinated regional initiatives to tackle the problem of illicit trade in SALW, noting existing mechanisms such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
