Mr. Chairman,

As important dimension of our work has broad societal impact, directly affecting people in their daily lives, in their immediate community. How we approach and deal with many conventional weapons issues goes well beyond traditional arms control. Much of it is impelled by humanitarian concerns and by international humanitarian law. It is indeed positive that progress has been witnessed in these areas in the past year, reflecting widespread collective determination to address the issues of small arms, conventional weapons, including explosive remnants of war, and landmines, although much still remains to be achieved.

Every week small arms and light weapons claim an average of 10,000 lives. They are the weapons of choice in current armed conflict, killing an estimated 300,000 people a year in conflict situations alone. From small handguns to automatic assault rifles, these instruments of social and economic destruction have moved beyond the traditional battlefields and war-torn regions. They have moved into our streets and into our homes. They affect developing and developed nations alike.

The issue of small arms has gained increased visibility since the adoption of the UN Programme of Action in July 2001 and the recent Biennial Meeting in July 2003. Governments, non-governmental organizations, and international and regional agencies have all worked together to implement this impressive framework for concrete action. We welcome these efforts and the work that has been achieved to date.

The fact remains, however, that small arms and light weapons still produce mass killings and continue to destroy communities. We must use our time and resources wisely if actual progress is to be made leading into the 2005 Biennial Meeting and the 2006 Review Conference.

Progress must continue on curbing the availability and misuse of small arms. Increased attention must be given to the issue of state responsibility on arms transfers, both transfers between states as well as transfers to non-state actors, as well as to such issues as the misuse of small arms by law enforcement officials.

Addressing the multiple challenges posed by small arms is a daunting task. But the cost of the availability and misuse of these weapons is even more staggering - to economic development, to basic services such as health and education and to community livelihoods. We ignore this tragedy at the peril of human, regional and, ultimately, global security.
1. First Committee Monitor Week One: questions, comments, changes for next week
   b. Reporting style week 3: Comparing and Contrasting resolutions to last year?
   3. KCW interns pulling out res from last year on each of our topics if you want this resource, contact her.
   c. Monitoring, okay, problems? Anybody doing up each day? Suggestions?
   d. Tips for monitoring and reporting (press releases and journal check)
   6. Friday deadline extended to live pit for THIS WEEK ONLY. The Monitor will not go out until Sunday evening instead of Friday late night.
      a. Scheduling for next week:
         i. Monday
         ii. Tuesday
         iii. Wednesday
         iv. Thursday
         v. Friday
   7. Friday briefing with Indonesia on NPT
   8. Other business/feedback
Canada's primary goal in supporting small arms initiatives and advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action is to make people and their communities safe. This should be what motivates us all here - to stop the death and human suffering caused by small arms. There are many facets to our work on small arms, but the human focus must remain our guiding principle. This people-centred approach must also be our benchmark to measure progress and to further the work to address these far-reaching and important issues. Our hope is that the work of the First Committee will contribute towards achieving this goal.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to two other areas with humanitarian dimensions. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is a flexible arms control instrument, whose purpose is to prohibit or restrict the use of certain weapons that may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and with a focus on balancing military needs with humanitarian concerns. Canada continues to encourage States not party to review their position and consider acceding to the Convention, and we welcome Chile, the most recent adherent.

In December 2002, States Parties established a Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate an instrument to address the post-conflict humanitarian concerns associated with Explosive Remnants of War. The term "Explosive Remnants of War" describes weapons that have not worked as designed, and that remain on the ground in the target area after hostilities have ceased. The term encompasses, but is much broader than, unexploded submunitions (from cluster bombs) - a problem identified during recent conflicts - and abandoned ordnance.

Canada has been active in the deliberations on Explosive Remnants of War. We want the next round of negotiations to culminate in a legally binding instrument which comprehensively addresses the humanitarian problems of ERW. We believe this should be possible. The solutions must involve the means to prevent ordnance from becoming unexploded, the provision of warnings to civilian populations of the dangers of unexploded and abandoned ordnance, and the means to ensure the rapid and safe post-conflict clearance of unexploded and abandoned ordnance. The results must make a difference on the ground in post-conflict environments and in people's lives. Canada is committed to international efforts to minimize the effects of Explosive Remnants of War through clearance, recording and transfer of information, risk education and assistance and cooperation.

Canada also believes it is important that States Parties to the CCW develop and agree on a broad mandate to negotiate a legally-binding Protocol that deals with the humanitarian problem of Anti-Vehicle Mines in all its aspects. The international humanitarian law covering these weapons must be reinforced to reflect that irresponsible use of Anti-Vehicle Mines hinders humanitarian operations and impacts on civilians. Thus, we recently co-sponsored a US-led proposal to address aspects of the humanitarian impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines.
Mr. Chairman,

Canada: the UN has a marked record of successes in the enforcement of arms embargoes, and has succeeded in achieving positive results in cases of non-compliance with international law. The Council has successfully enforced a number of resolutions with respect to arms embargoes, and has taken action against non-compliance. The Council has also succeeded in achieving positive results in cases of non-compliance with international law.

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