

THIRTY SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2-5 December, 2002
Mexico City, Mexico

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.32
CICAD/doc.1211/02
3 December 2002
Original: English

SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL
FOR RECONVENING THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON FIREARMS CONTROL

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Introduction

CICAD's Group of Experts on Firearms most recently met in 1997 to conclude its preparations of the Draft Model Regulations for the Control of Firearms. The Regulations were approved by the Commission in November 1997 and were subsequently adopted by the OAS General Assembly in June 1998.

Since that time, world events have had a major impact upon security questions and these in turn, have had direct and indirect effects on firearms control issues.

In addition, the coming into force of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) in July 1998, and the Convention Against Terrorism, as well as the United Nations (Palermo) Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the 3rd protocol to that Convention on the subject of firearms, has affected the approaches of multilateral bodies on questions of firearms control.

At another level, changes in the field of information and record-keeping technology in which the model regulations function has advanced since the Model Regulations were first introduced.

For its own part, the Secretariat carried out a series of seminars throughout the hemisphere between 1999 and the current year to explain and promote to officials responsible for firearms movements in individual countries, the measures contained in CICAD's Firearms Model Regulations. In so doing, it also explained the linkages between the Regulations and the Inter-American Convention and promoted adoption of the Convention.

CICAD has also worked closely with the Committee established under the Inter-American Firearms Convention (CIFTA) to promote the Convention and has built links with the Committee established to implement the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. It has also been commended with the preparation of a study on the subject of controls over firearms brokers for the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council of the OAS. During the same period, the Secretariat has been actively working with the United Nations Lima Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in the Caribbean and Latin America (UN-LIREC) and has been an active participant in the work plan of the Lima Centre in monitoring firearms destruction in Brazil, Argentina and Peru, developing electronic programs for implementing the provisions of CICAD's model Regulations in the development of modules for a joint firearms control training- the-trainers program.

The information acquired by the Secretariat since the model regulations were adopted together with suggestions it has received from various countries at

meetings and seminars have led the Secretariat to conclude that it is opportune to reconvene the Group of Experts on Firearms during 2003 to address the issues identified below.

Proposal

1. To review the Model Regulations to consider their currency and application, among other things, in the face of new security considerations and new inter-American and other international instruments coming into force since the Regulations were adopted in 1997.

To this end, consider whether new provisions to the Regulations are required and if so to develop such provisions in the areas of:

- the regulation of firearms brokers;
- firearms stockpile management and secure storage;
- consider the updating and harmonization of forms associated with the international movement of firearms and the creation of new forms such as end-use certificates, waybills, and others.

2. The experts shall consider and report to the Commission on the subjects of

- more effective firearms marking techniques;
- new technologies for tracing firearms movements;
- advances and changes in information technology governing the keeping of records on firearms movements, the identification of competent authorities and means for effecting information exchange among countries.

3. Consider and provide the Commission with recommendations for controlling international movements of explosives.