On 29 August 2012, the United Nations launched International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) following an intensive development process in collaboration with partners worldwide. The launch took place at the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The purpose of the standards is to provide clear, practical guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control in order to contribute to reducing the incidence and destructiveness of armed violence worldwide. One year after their launch, how are these new standards being used and by whom; and how are they making a difference?
Contents

Illicit Arms and Armed Violence...........................................5
About ISACS ........................................................................6
Raising awareness of ISACS.................................................8
How ISACS are being used...................................................10
  ...by CASA Partners.........................................................10
  ...by International & Regional Organizations....................12
  ...by Training Institutes....................................................13
  ...by the Private Sector....................................................14
ISACS Assessment Tool.......................................................15
ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit........................................16
How ISACS are making a difference.................................16
Looking to the future...........................................................17

Acknowledgements

The ISACS initiative gratefully acknowledges financial support from the following governments and organizations that made possible the work set out in this report:

- Australian Government – AUSAID
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swiss Confederation
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Cover Photo © UNICEF/NYHQ2001-0093/STEVIE MANN

ISACS Activity Report 2012-2013
Illicit Arms and Armed Violence

The illicit trade, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons are key drivers of armed violence in conflict, post-conflict and other fragile settings around the world. According to Global Burden of Armed Violence reports, every year more than half-a-million people die as a result of armed violence, at an opportunity cost to the global economy of about USD 400 billion in lost productivity and investment. Countless others are injured, displaced or have their lives irreparably damaged. Armed violence destroys lives and livelihoods; breeds insecurity, fear and terror; dissolves social cohesion and hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Whether in situations of conflict or crime, armed violence fueled by illicit weapons imposes enormous burdens on States, communities and individual human beings.

UN Member States have negotiated four global agreements to address the problem of illicit weapons — the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (2001); the UN Firearms Protocol supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2001); the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (2005) and the Arms Trade Treaty (2013).

Taken together, these agreements enshrine a comprehensive range of broadly agreed norms and commitments that, if fully implemented by all UN Member States, would make a significant contribution to reducing the incidence and destructiveness of armed violence. The International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) launched by the United Nations in 2012 provide practical guidance on how to put these commitments into action.

“Small arms in the wrong hands destroy lives and livelihoods, impede peace efforts, hinder humanitarian aid, facilitate the illicit trade in narcotics and obstruct investment and development”

Ban Ki-moon
What are ISACS?
The International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) are voluntary international standards that provide practical guidance on putting in place effective controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons so as to reduce the risk of their falling into the hands of criminals, terrorists and those who would misuse them.

Why were ISACS developed?
The initiative to develop ISACS came from UN agencies that participate in the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism. UN Member States frequently call upon these agencies (shown above) to provide advice and support on issues related to small arms and light weapons control — including legislative, programmatic and operational issues. CASA partners decided that the best way to ensure that the United Nations as a whole could consistently deliver high quality advice and support in response to such requests was to develop international standards on small arms and light weapons control, similar to the standards the UN has developed in the areas of mine action (the International Mine Action Standards) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (the Integrated DDR Standards).

What are ISACS based on?
The framework within which ISACS fit is provided by global agreements and international law that aim to prevent the illicit trade, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, in particular: the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; the International Tracing Instrument; the Firearms Protocol supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; and the Arms Trade Treaty.

The foundation upon which ISACS are built is provided by best practice guidelines, model regulations and legislation, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures that have been developed by regional and sub-regional organizations.

Who developed ISACS?
In addition to drawing upon expertise within the United Nations system, CASA collaborated with leading experts worldwide to develop ISACS. Governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector volunteered specialists to join the ISACS Expert Reference Group, which reviews draft standards. A full list of members of the ISACS Expert Reference Group, is on the Partners page of the ISACS website.
How do ISACS relate to regional standards and guidelines?
The International Small Arms Control Standards are built upon a solid foundation of regional standards and guidelines on small arms and light weapons control. Many of the regional organizations that developed best practice guidelines of their own have contributed to creating ISACS. As such, ISACS complement and reinforce regional standards and guidelines. In addition, ISACS provide a useful global reference-point that regional organizations can use when revising their existing best practice guidelines or when developing new ones. In this way, ISACS can contribute to achieving convergence between regional approaches to SALW control.

Are ISACS “best practices”?
In the strict sense of the term, no necessarily. In setting standards, ISACS seek to strike a critical balance between effectiveness in achieving the desired outcome, on the one hand, and achievability by all UN Member States, on the other, bearing in mind that international cooperation and assistance will often be needed. For this reason, ISACS do not require the application of the most advanced technologies available since the cost of these would be beyond the reach of most States. Instead, the standards call for the application of effective, proven technologies and methods that achieve the desired outcome at reasonable cost. Rather than “best practices,” it is therefore more accurate to say that ISACS espouse “effective practices” that are achievable by all States.

Do ISACS cover ammunition?
No, ISACS (International Small Arms Control Standards) provide guidance on controlling small arms and light weapons, but not their ammunition, which—due to the more hazardous nature of explosives—requires separate, specialized guidance. This is provided by the IATG (International Ammunition Technical Guidelines), administered under the United Nations SaferGuard programme [www.un.org/disarmament/un-saferguard]. The development and use of ISACS and IATG are closely coordinated within the UN system, are cross-referenced where appropriate and are mutually reinforcing.

Are ISACS compulsory?
No, ISACS are voluntary. Any State or organization may decide to apply them, but there is no obligation to do so. However, once a decision is taken to apply ISACS—or claim compliance with the standards—their provisions should be strictly applied.
Following their launch in August 2012, a priority of the ISACS project has been to raise awareness of the standards among potential users and to promote their use.

**First Security Council Resolution on small arms**
On 26 September 2013, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2117—its first dedicated to the issue of small arms and light weapons. The resolution expresses the Council’s grave concern at the “illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world” and encourages the application of ISACS in the area of stockpile management.

**Secretary-General’s reports**
Since their launch, the UN Secretary-General has highlighted and promoted ISACS in five separate reports—three to the Security Council and two to the General Assembly:

1. The Secretary-General’s 2013 report to the Security Council on small arms (S/2013/503) recommends that ISACS should be “fully utilized in arms and ammunition stockpile management practices” and that they should be used by the Council “when planning integrated peace operations missions, as well as in the day-to-day operations of the missions.”

2. The Secretary-General’s 2013 report to the Security Council on the situation in the Sahel region (S/2013/354) mandates CASA to “Sensitize the Governments of the Sahel and civil society actors about the 2012 International Small Arms Control Standards developed under the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which provide clear guidance on putting in place and maintaining controls on small arms and light weapons.”

3. The Secretary-General’s 2012 report to the Security Council on Illicit Cross-Border Trafficking and Movement (S/2012/777) highlights ISACS as a vehicle and facilitator of inter-agency collaboration on border controls and law enforcement cooperation in the context of small arms and light weapons control.

4. The Secretary-General’s 2013 report on small arms to the General Assembly (A/68/171) contains an extensive update on the development, rollout and use of ISACS, as well as on UNIDIR’s initiative to develop a software tool to support application of the standards (see page 15).

5. The Secretary-General’s 2013 report to the General Assembly on the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/68/134) provides an extensive overview of how UNLIREC is using ISACS to support governments in the region on a range of SALW control issues, including stockpile management, destruction, marking and recordkeeping.
CASA Partners
CASA partners played a central role in raising awareness of ISACS in the year following their launch. For example, in her opening remarks to the 2013 session of the General Assembly’s First Committee, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs made specific reference to the standards; and the 2012 annual report of the UNDP Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-Affected and Fragile Situations features a section on developing and applying ISACS.

ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit
The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit, created by CASA following the launch of the standards, has actively raised awareness and promoted the use of ISACS by presenting and discussing the standards at numerous international and regional meetings, including of the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG), the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Customs Organization, INTERPOL and at regional meetings addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Sahel region.

Translating ISACS
Standards modules in ISACS Series 05 (Operational Support) have been translated from English into other official UN languages—Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

www.smallarmsstandards.org
The ISACS website is the public portal into the ISACS project. ISACS modules can be downloaded free of charge from the site, where users can also keep up to date on how the standards are being used by a variety of actors around the world. During its first year of operation, the website received visits from 4,050 unique users in 149 countries.

@SALWstandards
The ISACS project is a new entrant to the world of Twitter and uses this social medium to communicate with and update relevant organizations and experts on project developments, as well as to solicit from them feedback on their use of the standards. The project’s twitter handle is @SALWstandards and the number of our followers is growing daily.

In the year following its launch, more than 4,000 unique visitors in 149 countries visited the ISACS website.
How ISACS are Being Used...

...by CASA Partners

The main purpose of ISACS is to provide CASA partners with a standardized set of policies and practices that can be called upon when responding to requests from UN Member States for advice and support related to SALW control. By doing so, ISACS help to ensure that the United Nations consistently delivers high quality advice and support on SALW control when called upon to do so by Member States.

UN CASA partners have taken the lead in using ISACS in the year following their launch. The following are examples of some of the main ways CASA partners have used the standards.

UNODA’s Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) has used ISACS as a reference point in an ECOWAS training on marking and recordkeeping and has used the standards to support trainings and/or assessments on stockpile management, border controls and tracing in Côte d’Ivoire, Republic of Congo, Sudan and Togo.

UNODA has also used ISACS to help develop Marking, Recordkeeping and Tracing Guidelines for West Africa; to support Ghana in the development of an electronic SALW recordkeeping system; and to develop guidelines on the establishment of gun-free zones.

UNDP and UNDPA used ISACS to support a joint assessment of weapons disposal in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

UNODA has also used ISACS to help design and conduct a weapons assessment in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.
Together with the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), UNDP, with the help of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), supported the Ministries of Interior of Bosnia & Herzegovina to evaluate the design of a weapons collection programme using the ISACS Application Support Tool being developed by UNIDIR. As a result, the Ministries revised over 60 percent of the project design in order to align it with the ISACS modules on collection, stockpile management and destruction.

UNDP used ISACS to help Ghana design a Comprehensive National Baseline Survey of SALW Proliferation Dynamics; support Croatia in designing and implementing an SALW survey; advise Georgia on stockpile management and support Kosovo police in destroying over 1,300 weapons.

UNDP, together with the Ministry of Interior of Nepal, organized a training workshop on ISACS for law enforcement officials and used the results to support the Ministry in developing a National Strategy and Action Plan on Small Arms Control for Nepal.

UNDP, with the help of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDOA), DPKO has developed a field guide on Correctly Documenting Arms and Ammunition for the purposes of identification and tracing, drawing on ISACS guidance. DPKO also assisted with the integration of relevant ISACS modules into the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) training course run by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime—guardian of the UN Firearms Protocol, one of the key frameworks for ISACS—used the standards as a reference point when elaborating a model law to assist States with implementing the Protocol. UNODC is also drawing on ISACS to support the development of a comprehensive training curriculum on firearms for criminal justice practitioners. UNODC applied the standards for planning its capacity building and technical assistance.

*Népal* law enforcement officers and Ministry of Home Affairs officials following completion of a Training Workshop on ISACS co-hosted by the government of Nepal and UNDP in September 2013.

Photo: UNDP Nepal
activities, for the development of a training course on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in firearms and for the planning and delivery of support on firearms record-keeping.

The Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) helped to sensitize governments and civil society on ISACS by featuring them in a conference on Border Control Cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb, co-organized with the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre of the CTITF and Morocco and held in Rabat in March 2013. CTED featured ISACS in the first meeting on the project to develop and implement the Road Map and Integrated Counter-Terrorism Strategy and non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa convened by UNOCA in Brazzaville, Congo, in December 2012. CTED included ISACS module 05.60 (Border controls and law enforcement cooperation) in its Compendium of Border Control Instruments, Standards and Recommended Practices Related to Counter-Terrorism.

The United Nations Children’s Fund, in partnership with DPKO Child Protection, used ISACS to inform the development of a child protection pre-deployment training for UN Peacekeepers. UNICEF also used the standards as the basis of technical support to UNICEF country offices advising governments on arms control measures.

The UN Human Settlements Programme has drawn on ISACS for inspiration and ideas in its elaboration of UN Guidelines on Safer Cities.

The United Nations Development Group—which unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development—issued a statement on the occasion of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty that included the following endorsement of ISACS:

“Over the past five years, 23 UN agencies—led by UNODA and UNDP—have been working to develop and apply International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), which provide clear, practical guidance on putting in place effective controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons— including controls over their international transfer [...]. The UNDG will continue to apply these international standards in the support we provide to national partners in the area of small arms control.”

...by International & Regional Organizations

International, regional and sub-regional organizations played an important role in developing ISACS. Now they are putting them to good use.

The Organization of American States is the guardian of the legally-binding CIFTA Convention (Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials). The organization’s Technical Secretariat has developed draft OAS Firearms Standards on Marking and Recordkeeping that draw extensively upon guidance provided by ISACS. The Consultative Committee of CIFTA, comprising OAS Member States, established a working group in April 2013 to finalize work on the OAS standards.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Forum for Security Cooperation invited the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit to brief it on how ISACS relate to regional best practice guidelines on SALW control and how they could inform a review of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW.

The OSCE’s Conflict Prevention Centre, with the help of a consultant from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), developed an electronic template for end-user certificates that is aligned with guidance provided by ISACS.

The OSCE collaborated with UNODA, UNODC and INTERPOL to organize
Kosovo police destroyed more than 1,300 small arms at a public destruction event implemented in accordance with ISACS.

The Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the OSCE Area in May 2013, at which ISACS were presented as a means of helping to build capacity in this area.

The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing-house for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons is, in its own words, “promoting the application of ISACS in the Western Balkans.”

The International Criminal Police Organization, whose resources relating to law enforcement cooperation and tracing illicit SALW are promoted by ISACS, invited the Coordinator of the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit to join the Advisory Board of its Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) in order to better promote synergies between ISACS and iArms.

Institutes that provide training on small arms and light weapons control have been incorporating ISACS into their curricula.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana, has included training modules on ISACS in its course on SALW Border Security Management and in its SALW Foundation Course. It has integrated relevant ISACS modules into its training curriculum on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and is working with the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit to further integrate ISACS into its training curricula related to small arms and light weapons control.

“The UNDG will continue to apply these international standards in the support we provide to national partners in the area of small arms control”

United Nations Development Group
The Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group is an apolitical, informal, multinational platform of States that exchange best practices and coordinate international assistance in the field of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). MSAG has incorporated ISACS 05.20 (Stockpile management: Weapons) into the modules it uses to train verification officers of MSAG States to conduct PSSM assessment missions and trainings in the field.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Political Affairs & Security Policy Division is working with the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit to incorporate ISACS into its annual SALW Orientation Course held at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. NATO’s Multimedia Library has also included links to ISACS on its webpage on Mine Clearance and SALW Destruction.

...by the Private Sector Private sector organizations, including industry bodies and consultancy companies, are important partners in the ISACS initiative.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre: Participants in the training course on “SALW Border Security Management” are briefed on ISACS module 05.60 on “Border Controls and Law Enforcement Cooperation.”

“ISACS has proved to be a valuable resource/tool for ‘monitoring and evaluating’ EU sponsored programs on ‘community safety’ in African, Caribbean, Pacific countries.”

Valerie Yankey-Wayne EPES Mandala Consulting, Ltd.

EPES Mandala Consulting — a British company specialising in evaluating and monitoring policies, programmes and cooperation projects financed by international institutions — provided the following testimonial on its use of ISACS:

“ISACS has proved to be a valuable resource/tool for ‘monitoring and evaluating’ EU sponsored programs on ‘community safety’ in African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) countries. We are not a training institute but we’ve found it useful in (1) designing the general methodology for the monitoring and evaluation assignments; (2) developing questions and discussion topics for workshops for local community groups and the security sector; and (3) developing recommendations and ‘action plans’. etc.”
UNIDIR is developing a powerful software tool that will greatly assist with the application of ISACS.

The software—known as the ISACS Assessment Tool—is designed to facilitate use of the standards and, in particular, provides States with a means of conducting self-assessments of their small arms and light weapons controls, based on ISACS.

The Assessment Tool allows the user to navigate the standards quickly; to sort their provisions into those that are required, recommended and allowed; and to generate electronic assessment questionnaires on any issue(s) covered by the standards.

With financial support from Germany and Finland, UNIDIR field-tested the prototype ISACS Assessment Tool in 9 countries — Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Kosovo, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan and Trinidad & Tobago.

ISACS modules used during the field-testing included those providing practical guidance on the collection of illicit and unwanted weapons, destruction of weapons, border controls and law enforcement cooperation, marking and record keeping, and stockpile management.

UNIDIR carried out the field-testing with the support of the Ministries of Interior and law enforcement agencies of the governments concerned, as well as UN and other partners on the ground, including BICC, CARICOM, KAIPTC, MAG, MSAG, OSCE, RECSA, SEESAC, UNLIREC, UNDP, UNMAS, UNMISS, and UNSOM.

UNIDIR presented the results of the testing phase during a side-event at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York in October 2013.

On finalizing the Assessment Tool, UNIDIR will transfer it to the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit—it will be available for free download from the ISACS website.

UNIDIR will conduct regional capacity-building workshops in the next phase of its ISACS Assessment Tool project (Phase III), aimed at establishing a global network of institutions that are capable of providing tailored training on the ISACS Assessment Tool to their beneficiaries, including States. Fund-raising efforts for Phase III of the project are ongoing.

“The meeting with the Ministry of Interior was outstanding! Using the ISACS Software Tool, we have revised over 60% of the planned weapons collection project. It has been fully aligned with the Collection, Stockpile Management and Destruction modules of ISACS.”

Jasmin Porobic
Programme Manager, Human Security
UNDP Bosnia & Herzegovina
Following the launch of ISACS, UN CASA established an Inter-Agency Support Unit tasked with promoting and supporting use of the standards by UN partners, regional organizations, training institutes and other partners.

The Unit is also responsible for coordinating the work of the ISACS Expert Reference Group on finalizing additional standards modules; for implementing the 2013-2018 ISACS Work Plan agreed by CASA Partners; and for mobilizing the resources necessary to implement the project.

UNDP and UNODA, the co-chairs of the ISACS project, jointly manage the ISACS Support Unit. In addition, UNDP provides administrative support and UNODA hosts the unit in the UN Secretariat in New York.

ISACS provide the United Nations system with a common set of policy, programming and practice guidelines that help ensure that the UN as a whole consistently delivers the highest quality advice and support to Member States on putting in place and maintaining effective controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons.

In the year following their launch, UN partners have put the standards to a range of creative uses, including supporting weapons assessments and surveys in post-conflict and fragile States; developing standard operating procedures, technical guides and training curricula for use at the national level; evaluating (and revising) the design of national small arms control programmes; and providing consistent, high-quality advice to Member States on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control.

Beyond the United Nations system, ISACS are supporting the work of regional and sub-regional organizations, who are using the standards to help revise their own good practice guidelines and to develop new ones. In this way, ISACS are demonstrating their utility as a global reference point that can contribute to convergence between regional good practices on small arms control.

Since their launch, ISACS have also demonstrated their utility to training institutes. As the standards reflect the framework of the global small arms control regime created by existing multilateral agreements—and as their development involved leading policy and technical experts worldwide—ISACS provide a useful starting-point for training institutes that wish to provide a comprehensive curriculum that encompasses effective control over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons.

Finally, in private sector consultancy services ISACS have also begun to have an impact, particularly as a tool for monitoring and evaluating donor-funded small arms control programmes.

One year is not a long time for a new product to become widely known, understood and used. The enthusiasm with which ISACS have been picked up and put to use by UN agencies, international and regional organizations, training institutes and the private sector is therefore encouraging. It demonstrates the quality of the guidance offered by ISACS and the fact that the standards are already making a contribution to supporting and improving global, regional and especially national efforts to effectively control small arms and light weapons and to reduce the global burden of armed violence.
Looking to the future

Following the launch and rollout of the operational ISACS modules, attention will next turn to finalizing additional modules, while continuing to raise awareness and support the use of the existing standards.

During the next phase of the project (September 2013 – August 2014) the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit will focus on working with the ISACS Expert Reference Group to finalise an additional series of international standards on legislative and regulatory controls on small arms and light weapons (Series 03), to be launched at the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, scheduled to take place on 16-20 June 2014 at UN Headquarters in New York.

In addition, the ISACS Support Unit will continue to advise and assist UN agencies, international and regional organizations and training institutes in their use of ISACS. In undertaking this work, the Support Unit will remain driven by demand from its partners for assistance in applying the standards to their work.

In order to be able to pursue both of these lines of work simultaneously—finalization of additional standards modules and continued support for the use of existing standards—the ISACS Support Unit, with the assistance of its donors, will seek to expand its capacity through the addition of one technical staff member.

In 2014, The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) will transfer to the ISACS Support Unit the software it has developed and tested in a number of countries (see page 15). Known as the ISACS Assessment Tool, the software will facilitate the use of the standards and provide users with a powerful means of conducting evaluations and self-assessments of small arms control programmes. The ISACS Support Unit and UNIDIR will continue to coordinate closely on the next phase of the software project, which will include regional ‘training of trainers’ workshops on how best to use the tool to design and evaluate effective small arms and light weapons control programmes.

The next phase of the ISACS initiative promises to be even more challenging and rewarding than the first year following the launch of the standards, an outline of which this report has attempted to sketch. With the support of our partners—especially CASA, our donor governments and our Expert Reference Group—the ISACS initiative is well positioned to help strengthen national small arms control regimes in order to reduce the incidence and destructiveness of armed violence in conflict, post-conflict and other fragile settings.

With the support of our partners, the ISACS initiative is well positioned to help strengthen national small arms control regimes in order to reduce the incidence and destructiveness of armed violence in conflict, post-conflict and other fragile settings.