

norms and law. Such a discussion is beyond the scope of this paper but must be addressed in a summary fashion since the sole source of norms in this case is resolution 46/36L and subsequent adherence to its procedures by states. Levi's basic international law text states that UN General Assembly resolutions:

reflect a majority consensus about (but not necessarily consent to) expectations of future state behaviour and may eventually become law...these resolutions have some effect upon the behaviour of states as soft law or as a means of social communication. In examining the practice of states, one can assume that in any case two conditions must be fulfilled for these resolutions to approximate the making of law. First they must refer to principles and norms suitable for generalization. Second, they must be credible...the majority passing these resolutions must contain most or many of those states needed to make them operative. In sum, international organizations can contribute to the growth of law. They do not make law.⁴⁷

The two conditions stated above seem to be fulfilled for resolution 46/36L. One hundred and fifty states agreed to the norms of transparency and openness, and the prevention of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms. Within that 150 are all of the major arms supplier states. As previously mentioned, some key developing countries objected to the resolution in its initial form but the final product reflected their concerns, enabling the vote of 150-0.

Janis' basic international law text provides additional insights into the role of General Assembly resolutions in the development of norms. He first points out that the UN Charter empowers the General Assembly to 'initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international cooperation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification.' But the voting behaviour of the Member States may also assist in the development of norms. 'The vote of a state on a matter before an international organization is itself an act of that state, and the balloting of many states on a specific question may in some circumstances illustrate a consensus about a customary rule.'⁴⁸

Active management

The first aspect of managing a cooperative security regime is information management-collection, evaluation, verification and analysis. In the case of the Register this task will be onerous. The collection function is underway, with the UN Centre for Disarmament (UNCDA) establishing a

⁴⁷ Werner Levi, *Contemporary International Law* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1991), 48-49.

⁴⁸ Mark Janis, *An Introduction to International Law* (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1993).