

325. Wagenmakers, Hendrik. "The UN Register of Conventional Arms: A New Instrument For Cooperative Security." *Arms Control Today*. Vol. 23, No. 3, April 1993, pp. 16-21.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, a growing international consensus emerged that excessive and destabilizing accumulations of arms must be guarded against. It was in this context that the UN Register of Conventional Arms was created. Designed as a confidence-building measure, it requires each state to submit a report of the arms transfers made during the previous year in seven categories (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, and missiles and missile launchers). It represents a first step toward a more comprehensive system of cooperative security.

Several of the Register's benefits are outlined: first, it demonstrates that international consensus is possible on arms control measures (the Resolution which created the Register, 46/36L, was adopted by the General Assembly by a vote of 150-0); second, it has produced a cross-checking form of verification (the reports of importers and exporters should match); third, it has the potential to foster transparency within states by encouraging states with domestic legislation prohibiting the disclosure of military transfers to amend their laws; and, finally, it marks the first time governments will submit official military data to other governments.

Despite these benefits, Wagenmakers concedes that there are elements of the Register which could be improved. In describing the role of the 1994 Panel of Experts, he details several tasks likely to be on its agenda: first, offer clear definitions of key terms (e.g. "arms transfer"); second, modify the existing seven categories to maximize transparency; third, discuss the merits of including new categories of weapons (e.g. cluster bombs); and, finally, analyze the benefits of integrating categories for military holdings and for procurement through national production. Given the Register's goal of maximizing participation, the Register should be modified only if doing so will increase participation.

It is clearly in the interest of UN member states to take advantage of this new vehicle to enhance their security at no economic cost. The Register can be highly effective in helping to reduce dangerous misperceptions and in promoting trust and partnership between states. To succeed, however, it must have the cooperation of UN member states.

326. Wulf, Herbert. "The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, Appendix 10F." In *SIPRI Yearbook 1993: World Armaments and Disarmament*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 533-544.

Wulf maintains that the creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms was made possible by two seminal events: the end of the Cold War, and the Gulf War. He chronicles the history of the register and the transparency in armaments process. Also examined is the 1991 UN General Assembly decision to create the Register. Despite the adoption of its founding resolution (46/36L) by a vote of 150-0, the extensive debate prior to the vote shows that not all states were satisfied. Indeed, several contentious