

systems. In each year of the Register's operation, more than 90 governments have made submissions to the Register, and of these about 70 have done so consistently, including Canada. In all, 138 states have submitted data for at least one of the reporting years. All major arms exporters and most major importers now annually submit reports, with a reasonable representation of most geographical regions. By capturing over 90 percent of the international trade in major conventional weapons, the Register has become an important and authoritative source of information.

Canada is one of a growing number of countries that also voluntarily submit data on military holdings as well as on procurement through national production. This information goes beyond the minimum currently required by the United Nations, and makes an important contribution to global transparency on military capabilities. We encourage other countries to join us in submitting such data, and otherwise to enhance their submissions through ensuring their accuracy and completeness and providing any other relevant background information.

In addition to our efforts at the United Nations to improve and expand the Register, Canada has taken a leading role within regional organizations both in encouraging dialogue on the data submitted to the UN Register and in supporting the establishment of regional registers that respond to the specific security concerns of these organizations' member states. We have been successful in this regard in the Organization of American States (OAS) and in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Moreover, we continue to work with our partners toward an enhanced dialogue within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum.

Canada also played an important role in developing in 1996 a set of UN Guidelines on International Arms Transfers and is fully implementing the OSCE's 1993 Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers. As well, Canada officially endorsed the European Union's new Code of Conduct for International Arms Transfers following its adoption in June 1998.

The challenge of dealing with conventional weapons includes the problem of how to deal with particular classes of weapons such as landmines and small arms. On the question of landmines, Canada can look back on the successful conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction at the December 2-4, 1997, Ottawa Conference. To date, more than 133 countries have signed the Convention. On March 1, 1999, after the requisite 48 countries had ratified it, the Convention came into force as binding international law.

Canada has also ratified Protocols II and IV of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which regulates the use of landmines and other inhumane weapons. This instrument remains an important one, particularly for those countries not yet willing to sign the Ottawa Treaty.

Canada, in co-operation with like-minded partners, is looking at ways to address the proliferation of small arms, which can undermine the security and development efforts of many developing countries as well as contribute to human suffering. Canada takes a three-track