

finally, it should make the transfers of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction transparent.

Shoukry criticizes the Panel of Governmental Experts who prepared the Register's rounding resolution (46/36L). This document has several shortcomings: first, it does not define "arms transfer"; second, it does not include suggested categories (e.g. military holdings); third, it does not require the inclusion of descriptions of transferred weapons; and, finally, it does not attach enough importance to the early expansion of the Register's scope. If the Register hopes to have continued relevance, it must secure universal participation and expand to incorporate all types of armaments.

324. Wagenmakers, Hendrik. "The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: A New Instrument for Transparency and Cooperative Security." In *Disarmament Topical Papers 15: Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region*, New York: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 1993, pp. 19-36.

Wagenmakers introduces the UN Register of Conventional Arms as part of a wider transparency process. He maintains that the Register has produced several benefits. To begin with, it contains its own self-checking form of verification (i.e. the reports of importing and exporting nations should record the same number of weapons transferred). Moreover, it has the potential to foster transparency *within* states (i.e. by encouraging states with secretive domestic laws to be more open). Finally, it is an important first step towards a more comprehensive system of cooperative security.

Wagenmakers also relates the work of several complimentary agencies. For instance, the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) is considering the role of science and technology in arms proliferation. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is evaluating the merits of including categories on military holdings and procurement through national production in the Register. Finally, the agenda of the 1994 Panel of Experts is outlined. Their discussions will focus on the following issues: participation levels, possible improvements to the standard reporting form, definitional problems, possible modifications of the existing parameters of the seven categories, and possible inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production.

In addition, Wagenmakers details the possible areas of expansion for the Register. In the coming years, it will be expanded to include data on weapons of mass destruction, and to record the transfer of high technology with military applications. Eventually, the Register, "...though its intrinsic value and thanks to parallel endeavours, may effectively help to reduce the occurrence of dangerous misperceptions as well as to promote trust and partnership between nations" (p. 34). This task would be furthered by the creation of a consultative mechanism to analyze and review the data submitted to the Register. Such an organization might also help states prepare their returns, thereby helping to standardize the reporting process.