

of data availability should be pursued, especially through SADC. Donor countries may be able to assist this process on a project basis or by providing technical support.

Controlling the Arms Trade

South Africa is ahead of the other countries in the region in its accession to international control and monitoring agreements and regimes; this is entirely appropriate as South Africa is the principal producer and trader of arms in the region. The Republic has now acceded to (or is in the process of ratifying) most of the relevant international multilateral arms control agreements, including the NPT, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Certain Conventional Weapons Treaty and the Missile Technology Control Regime. South Africa is also, since 1994, a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and played a leading role in the negotiations over the NPT review and the review of the CCW treaty.

The picture is not as good for other Southern African states, although in many cases the agreements would have little application—none of the other Southern African states, for example, is remotely likely to become a nuclear proliferator. However, with the exception of Angola, all have signed the NPT and several have ratified the Biological Weapons Convention, although none has ratified the CCW Treaty.¹⁶

South Africa is the only significant arms exporter in the region, accounting for 0.4 per cent of the international arms trade. Exports amounted to R854 million in 1994/5, mostly to the Middle East but also to other parts of the world. The South African defence industry declined rapidly after 1989 as a result of the collapse of its domestic market, and it has responded by diversifying and by seeking to increase exports. According to the South African Defence Industries Association (SADIA), the industry projects defence exports of R2,892 million by 1997—that is, a tripling over four years.¹⁷

¹⁶*Sipri Yearbook 1995.*

¹⁷South African Defence Industries Association, "Defence Industry Overview—Today and in the Future," Conference on the South African Defence Industry in the Future, Midrand, 26-28