

them before they start, in a multilateral forum, will always be difficult, if not impossible. This is not to say that states have not done this *unilaterally*, especially during the Cold War.²¹

There is no obligation to report on an entire range of weapons not included in the Register in its current form: small arms, bombs, munitions, mortars, guns below a certain calibre, missiles below a range of 25 kilometres, ground-to-air missiles, support ships, non-combat planes and helicopters, and others. Moreover, many other forms of arms-related trade are outside the scope of the Register, including major subsystems (especially engines and electronic upgrades), dual-use items and production technologies. Further, the Register is concerned only with legitimate arms trade and does not deal with the growing problem of illicit arms transfers.

Between January and April 1993, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs — the portion of the Secretariat charged with implementing and maintaining the Register — conducted four regional workshops on the Register in Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Warsaw and Florence. The initial aim of these workshops was to bring together those governmental representatives responsible for their government's reporting procedures (frequently involving representation from Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence) in order both to clearly lay out the requirements of the Register to ensure full compliance and to address Member States' questions and concerns in order to facilitate broad participation. The workshops were conducted in an informal manner generally consisting of: (a) a presentation of the Register in its historical and operational aspects; (b) a presentation of current information, publicly available, on arms transfers specific to the region in question and discussion on ways of promoting further transparency; (c) a simulation exercise on the reporting requirements, allowing participants to work through theoretical examples of transfers in order to familiarize themselves with the reporting requirements; and (d) presentations by participants on their government's views on the Register and prospects for further elaboration of its scope. In addition to governmental representatives from the regions addressed in the respective workshops, members of the Panel of Governmental Technical Experts which devised the technical procedures for the effective operation of the Register, as well as representatives of the Permanent Five, were frequently present to lend their expertise and support.

²¹ For an extensive treatment of how states have exercised unilateral restraint see Edward J. Laurance, 'Reducing the Negative Consequences of Arms Transfers Through Unilateral Arms Control,' in Bennett Ramberg, ed., *Arms Control Without Negotiation* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1993), 175-198.