

6. *Transparency in Armaments*. United Nations Resolution 48/35E, December 1993.

The General Assembly reaffirms its request to the Secretary General to prepare a report, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development.

7. Report of the Secretary General. *Report on the Continuing Operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and Its Further Development*. UN General Assembly Document A/49/316, September 22, 1994.

The 1994 Panel of Experts met from 7 February to 5 August 1994. Their report, unanimously approved by the members of the Panel (the expert from Egypt reserved his opinion), is divided into four sections.

In part one the continuing operation of the Register is reviewed. The Panel offers several conclusions. To begin with, universal participation should remain the goal of the Register. Moreover, concern is expressed about regional variations in participation. To rectify this problem, regional registers should be created to supplement the global Register. Finally, the continued existence of reporting discrepancies (i.e. the reports submitted by export and import countries did not match) is discouraging. Several factors account for these difficulties: first, conflicting interpretations of whether or not a transfer has occurred; second, conflicting interpretations of the definitions for the equipment categories; third, reporting errors; and, finally, conflicting interpretations as to when a transfer occurred. The authors conclude that a universal definition for "arms transfer" should be formulated.

In part two the future development of the Register is analyzed. The Panel considered three possible modes of expansion: first, adjusting the existing definitions for the seven categories of weapons; second, adding new categories of conventional weapons; and, finally, expanding the scope of the Register. Despite extensive discussions, consensus proved impossible. The Panel recommends the review of these expansion possibilities at a future date.

The creation of regional registers is discussed in part three. The Panel agrees that the establishment of regional registers, as a complement to the global Register, should be encouraged.

The fourth part of the report consists of an overview of the Register's reporting procedures. The Panel provides some guidelines for determining what constitutes an arms transfer. It also relates that the completion of the "background information" section remains voluntary. Moreover, states are encouraged to enter into bilateral talks before submitting their reports to avoid reporting discrepancies. In addition, the UN Secretariat should continue to advise member states on the technical aspects of participation. Finally, future reviews should be held to further develop the Register.