collection and dissemination of data on conventional arms. Fourth, the arms acquisition culture and processes tend to be region-specific. In some cases the major arms exporter countries play a crucial role and would have to be integrated into the process. In other regions this is not the case. A regional approach could control for such differences.

On the other hand, there are disadvantages to the regional approach, especially if it would mean a diminution of the global effort. For one thing, most conflict scenarios involve weapons imported from outside the region. Care must be taken that these suppliers are integrated into the process. Second, a great deal of the support for the global UN Register process has come from the developing world, who see this as an opportunity to challenge the industrialized world to cut back on its own military effort so that economic assistance can be increased. The global approach also allows some states to use the Register as a more general political pulpit. Third, key regional actors have traditionally called on disarmament and arms control mechanisms to be universal and nondiscriminatory. The Register has the makings of just such a mechanism and it would hardly make sense for the developing world to abandon the effort. In essence, the two approaches can supplement each other.

Developing a Global Consultative Mechanism

Be it regional or global, converting or developing the Register into a cooperative security regime involves a similar set of steps. Much has been written and proposed in the way of cooperative security regimes since the end of the Cold War. The CSCE has added structures and processes which push it a long way towards a genuine cooperative security regime. While no consensus has emerged regarding a formula for cooperative security, Chayes and Chayes have come pretty close in a recent conceptual chapter to the book *Global Engagement: Cooperation and Security in the 21st Century*.[46] They have identified five central elements which can serve as a guide as to where the Register is at the moment and how it can develop into a consultative mechanism for the accomplishment of higher level objectives.

1)   A strong normative base
2)   Inclusiveness and non-discrimination
3)   Transparency
4)   Active management
           — Information Management
           — Policy review and assessment
           — Capacity building

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[46] Brookings Institution, 1994.