

of weapons of mass destruction, but little headway has been made in limiting the proliferation of conventional weapons; finally, at the institutional level, no consensus has been reached on the type of arms control regimes which would benefit hemispheric security.

Varus expresses optimism about the future of the UN Register of Conventional Arms to promote peace and stability. However, the Register must be modified if it is to have continued relevance in Latin America. To begin with, it should develop gradually. In the meantime, it must be promoted to secure wider participation. In addition, some sections need to be clarified, most notably the section which requests background information on military holdings. Finally, discussions which aim to include categories for weapons of mass destruction and transfers of high technology with military applications should be abandoned. Instead, a parallel register should be constructed to accommodate weapons of mass destruction. Similarly, high technology transfers should be monitored by existing regimes (Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)).

Varus stresses the potential of the Register to provide a foundation for new regional security cooperative regimes. To fulfil this role, however, it must be integrated with the efforts of other security regimes and regional institutions.

439. Wagenmakers, Hendrik. "The Register as a Proud Member of a Family of Efforts." *Disarmament: A periodic review by the United Nations*. Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1994, pp. 1-22.

Early discussions between the European Twelve, plus Japan, and several non-aligned countries on the concept of an arms register did not lead to easy agreement. However, the desire to declare transparency in armaments an objective of the General Assembly resulted in cooperation and the eventual adoption of resolution 46/36L, creating the UN Register of Conventional Arms. Wagenmakers details the background of the Register as part of a "family" of confidence-building measures designed to promote transparency.

Also examined are the issues before the 1994 Panel of Experts, convened to expand and clarify the Register. Wagenmakers cautions against rushing its development, arguing that achieving stability in reporting should be the first goal. Furthermore, he outlines the parallel efforts being made by the Conference on Disarmament to encourage transparency in armaments. Some of the proposals before the Conference include measures which would require each nation to declare the size and organization of its armed forces, and schemes which would require advance notice of any major military exercise.

Wagenmakers is confident that the Register will be expanded to include military holdings and procurement through national production. Transparency in armaments integrates arms control and international security. Moreover, it provides a basis for cooperative dialogue on security concerns between nations. Therefore, every effort should be made to secure wider participation.