

In support of the Register, which is maintained at UN headquarters in New York, all UN member states are asked to supply data annually on their imports and exports in seven major categories of conventional weapons systems. Each year since the Register began operations, more than 90 governments have made submissions to the Register, and of these about 70 have done so consistently, including Canada. In all, 150 states have submitted data for at least one of the reporting years. All major arms exporters and most major importers now annually submit reports, with a reasonable representation of most geographic regions. By capturing over 90 percent of the international trade in major conventional weapons, the Register has become an important and authoritative source of information.

In addition to our efforts at the United Nations to improve and expand the Register, Canada has taken a leading role within regional organizations to encourage dialogue on the data submitted to the UN Register and to support the establishment of regional registers that respond to the specific security concerns of these organizations' member states. We have been successful in this regard in the Organization of American States and in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Moreover, we continue to work with our partners toward enhanced dialogue within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum.

Canada is one of a growing number of countries that voluntarily submit data on military holdings as well as on procurement through national production. This information goes beyond the minimum currently required by the United Nations, and makes an important contribution to global transparency on military capabilities. We encourage other countries to join us in submitting such data and to otherwise enhancing their submissions by ensuring their accuracy and completeness and by providing any other relevant background information.

Canada has also played an important role in developing, in 1996, a set of UN Guidelines on International Arms Transfers and is fully implementing the OSCE's 1993 Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers. As well, Canada has officially endorsed the European Union's Code of Conduct for International Arms Transfers, which was adopted in June 1998.

One of the challenges in dealing with conventional weapons is how to deal with particular classes of weapons such as landmines and small arms. On landmines, Canada can look back on the successful conclusion of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction* at the December 2-4, 1997, Ottawa Conference. To date, more than 133 countries have signed the Convention. On March 1, 1999, after the requisite 48 countries had ratified it, the Convention came into force as binding international law.