

state-sponsored terrorism directed against other countries, subversion and drug trafficking. (A/C.1/48/SR.11)

Japan

The Register is an important element in the international effort to curb the unregulated and unprincipled transfer of weapons. Japan hopes that a substantially larger number of States will understand the significance of the Register and will participate.

While the basic objective of the Register is to increase transparency and to foster the growth of confidence, Japan is of the view that, in addition to this global approach, there is also a need to promote regional cooperation. This would include devising supplementary measures of transparency adjusted to the specific characteristics of each region.

Kazakhstan

The Register cannot be a practical substitute for arms reduction, but could increase confidence-building at regional and subregional levels. (A/C.1/48/SR.12)

Maldives

Maldives believes that the establishment of the Register is a productive first step towards controlling the spread of conventional arms. Maldives supports further development and strengthening of the Register. The success of the Register lies in the commitment of the member States to military transparency at a regional and international level.

Malta

Malta noted that the ongoing conflicts on the territories of the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union illustrate the importance of efforts to promote greater transparency and accountability in the field of conventional arms transfers. (A/C.1/48/SR.14)

Mongolia

With the establishment of the Register and the adoption by the UNDC of "Substantial Guidelines and Recommendations for Objective Information on Military Matters" the cause of promoting transparency in military matters gained significant momentum. Mongolia notes with satisfaction that the first report of the Register contains information submitted by major suppliers and recipients alike.

Netherlands

The fact that 80 nations reported, including over 200 arms transfers, is a promising start. The public data now available through the Register creates transparency on conventional arms transfers and thus effectively contributes to confidence-building among the community of states. In order to provide the maximum level of transparency and confidence, the Netherlands asks for timely returns. Despite the impressive performance of the Register in its first year, the number of States reporting is insufficient - maximum participation is necessary in order to create confidence and trust among the member nations. The returns of member States to the Register so far are to be hailed as firm support for the concept embodied in the Register. The concrete data supplied are highly relevant as are nil returns. Nil returns have both political and factual bearing. Political, since the state concerned shows the political preparedness to voluntarily report to the Register. Factual, since the return itself officially reports that no arms transfer has taken place.

Nicaragua