

of Conventional Arms and was a founding contributor. The Register, established by a General Assembly Resolution in December 1991, makes a significant contribution to transparency, confidence building and enhanced global security. Regional registers, to which Canada contributes, have also been established by the Organization of American States and the OSCE.

In support of the Register, which is maintained at UN headquarters in New York, all governments may voluntarily supply data annually on their imports and exports in seven major categories of conventional weapons systems. Each year since the Register began operations, on average more than 90 governments have made submissions to it, and of these about 70 have done so consistently, including Canada. In all, 152 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.

The UN Governmental Group of Experts' report on the Register, issued in 2000, contained recommendations to seek universal contribution to the Register through a series of subregional workshops to enhance familiarity with it. Along with Japan, Canada hosted the first regional workshop on the Register in Cambodia in February 2001. To bring greater focus to the Register and the Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures—both UN transparency instruments—Canada, along with Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, will sponsor a series of regional and subregional workshops in 2002 and 2003.

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; we also encourage them to enhance their submissions by ensuring their accuracy and completeness and by providing any other relevant background information.

Canada, in cooperation with like-minded partners, is looking at ways to address the proliferation of small arms, which can undermine the security and development efforts of many developing countries as well as contribute to human suffering. Canada takes a three-track approach to this challenge, addressing the arms control, crime prevention and peacebuilding dimensions of the problem at global, regional and national levels. This integrated approach targets supply-side and transit issues, and seeks to cope with post-conflict surplus stocks and reduce the demand for weapons. Resolving the small arms problem is seen as an integral part of conflict prevention and management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.