

information to the Register. Israel hopes that the process of establishing greater transparency in arms transfers will contribute to confidence-building, stability and peace.

Jamaica

Jamaica hopes that the scope of the Register will be widened to include other categories of weaponry and levels of production and stockpiling. CARICOM countries have a particular interest in the effective functioning of an expanded Arms Register. Security threats in the region are heightened by the trade in both legal and illegal arms, however, despite of the Register's importance as a confidence-building measure, it does not inhibit the actual trade in arms.

Malaysia

Malaysia supports the call by the Secretary-General that regional countries should take the initiative on their own or in consultations with international organizations to work towards greater transparency in the transfer of armaments and disarmament so as to increase regional security and stability. In this regard, ASEAN has undertaken specific initiatives consistent with the traditions and practices within the sub-region.

Netherlands

Participation in the Register stimulates cooperation at the regional and sub-regional level, thereby contributing to stability in all regions of the world.

Thailand

Thailand considers that transparency in armaments can never be a substitute for genuine reduction in arms. The goals and intentions of the Register must be clear to all; states must be satisfied that their security will not be compromised by their participation. Since the degree of confidence among States varies from one region to another, Thailand believes regional consultations on transparency will be useful. (A/C.1/48/SR.11)

4. SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE REPORTING PROCEDURES

Netherlands

In order for the Register to be objective and non-discriminatory, its contents should be in full conformity with the seven categories and their definitions. In some cases definitions might need further adjustment, for instance those of combat aircraft and attack helicopters, the threshold in the definition of warships and the present definition of warships, and the present definition of missiles and missile launchers. Another more technical question is whether the standardized form for the reporting of arms transfers needs to be adapted. For instance, some member States anticipated the future development of the Register by using the standardized reporting form for submitting returns on their military holdings and procurement through national production. The 1994 Experts Group should explore whether ways and means can be found to help reduce the number of discrepancies between returns, for instance by the gradual amuning of national administrative procedures. To that end, the experts might develop greater commonality in views on the definition of what constitutes an arms transfer in terms of the Register: the transfer of title, the actual transfer of the hardware or the equipment passing customs.