

308. Cottafavi, Francesco. "The United Nations Conventional Arms Register." In *Proliferation and International Security: Converging Roles of Verification, Confidence Building and Peacekeeping*, eds. Steven Mataija and Lyne C. Bourque, Toronto, York University: Centre for International and Strategic Studies, 1993, pp. 155-157.

Cottafavi provides an overview of the creation and development of the UN Register of Conventional Arms. He relates the origins of the Register and its potential role in future arms control discussions. If the Register is successfully implemented, it "...could become the most far-reaching international arms control mechanism yet created" (p. 156). Among its other potential benefits, the Register will encourage transparency, thereby enhancing confidence and promoting regional and international stability.

309. Department of Political Affairs. "Transparency, Confidence-Building and the Arms Register." In *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Volume 17: 1992*, New York: United Nations, 1993, pp. 88-117.

Constructed as an introduction to the transparency in armaments concept, this article outlines the major developments in 1992. The general trends are outlined and some key achievements noted (e.g. Treaty on Open Skies, and the Helsinki Document 1992). The report of the 1992 Panel of Experts (General Assembly Document A/47/342) on the expansion of the UN Register of Conventional Arms is described and its establishment called "a ground-breaking endeavour" (p. 96).

In addition, the works of several UN groups in promoting transparency in armaments are outlined. First, the action of the Disarmament Commission, its guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters. Second, the issues before the Conference on Disarmament (e.g. expand the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production). Third, United Nations resolutions relevant to transparency in armaments (e.g. 47/52L).

It is concluded that the ultimate purpose "...of confidence-building measures is to reassure, to increase security, and to facilitate and promote the process of arms limitation and disarmament" (p. 116). The UN Register forms an important part of this process.

310. Goldblat, Jozef. "Reservations About UN Arms Register." *Arms Control Today*. Vol. 23, No. 6, July-August 1993, p. 30.

Goldblat argues that the creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms is not grounds for euphoria. He points to the wide range of weapons presently excluded from the Register's annual report as a sign of its weakness. Moreover, the Register has no early warning capacity since it covers only transfers which have already occurred. In addition, no agreement has been reached on a working definition of what constitutes an "excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms". Finally, the Register is of little utility since it failed to secure reports from even one-half of UN member states.