

Regional Differences: Regional Distribution of Member States Reporting to the UN Register

	Imports		Exports		Background information
	Data included	Nil report	Data included	Nil report	
Africa	0	5	0	5	0
Asia	11	7	2	14	4
Middle East	2	1	2	2	2
Latin America	5	3	2	3	4
Western Europe*	14	6	9	12	16
CIS and Eastern Europe	4	10	7	6	5
North America	2	0	2	0	2
Total	38	32	24	42	33

* Western Europe includes European NATO and neutral countries

Another key factor in explaining the variation in regional participation is indifference, the fact that many states of the world did not view the Register as a relevant process. In some cases this is a result of irrelevant categories of weapons (e.g., Africa, Central America). In the case of the Middle East the Register came on line just as the peace process entered a critical stage. This is also the region that is assumed to be the most volatile and states such as those in the Gulf may simply not find it prudent to participate until more certainty and stability emerges in the region.

Achieving the Objectives of the Register — The First Year

As previously noted the development of the Register in the summer and fall of 1991 was a difficult task for the architects, trying to balance the various perspectives of states in an area of international and national security never before attempted. The resolution itself contains various objectives, some of which were added in order to achieve a consensus. The question which now must be asked is how well these various goals and objectives have been achieved in the first year of operations. Such an assessment is another key element in fashioning specific proposals for further developing the Register.

Transparency and Openness. As indicated previously a great deal of new information was produced in the first year of the Register. An estimate of more than 90% of the actual transfers taking place seems reasonable, although the non-participation of some key importers and exporters and the less than adequate control systems in the former Soviet Union cannot allow complete confidence in such