

The data base will have provision for the applicable comments submitted by participant nations via Form B in order to reflect accurately the position of each contributor as they themselves would wish to have it seen by the world. Information in the data base will be cross-referenced, where applicable, to amplifying comments submitted by the National Authority.

The data base will be unclassified. Each specified period (annually or more frequently, depending upon the umbrella agreement's provisions), the register data will be collated as of the specified date. Hard copy data will be provided at the discretion of the Central Agency. The normal method of access to the public will be by the World Wide Web (ie. the Internet). Data to the latest date possible will be available for display and, in this way, the data base will be timely and reflective of the true state of declared transfers by participants.

ANALYSIS

The Secretariat will act primarily as accountants and bookkeepers for the register. They will, as part of their regular duties, compile the data and produce consolidated reports periodically or as required. The Consultative Commission may request a more extensive analysis of the data from the Secretariat. The Secretariat will provide the information to the best of their ability or will act as the contracting agent in the hiring of an outside entity to fulfill the request. It is expected that individual nations, researchers, academics and the media will make use of the raw data to draw their own conclusions about the flow of light weapons and the validity of data provided by National Authorities.

BASELINE DATA

Upon the entry into force of the agreement, the participating states agree to complete Form A in as much detail as possible. At their own discretion, they may submit amplification of the raw data with Form B. This will be submitted at the same time as Form A, and be cross-referenced to it, in order to allow participant nations to explain further the transactions outlined in Form A.

UPDATES OF INFORMATION

When information changes or becomes available when it was not previously, the participating states may submit Form C outlining the changes which pertain to their particular situation. This alleviates the need to re-submit the entire Form A (and B, if applicable). Form C will provide a quick and efficient way to modify data on an as-required basis to accurately reflect the current status of transfers at any given time.