

informed the Secretariat that they are interested in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts. Turkey holds the view that only by widening its scope to include procurement from national production, can the Register be transformed into an effective and non-discriminatory instrument of transparency and confidence-building.

United States of America

From the perspective of the United States, 80 responses to the Register is a good response, but not good enough. The Register can clearly be strengthened and the United States looks forward to the meeting of Governmental Experts who will be working towards bolstering the Register, including increasing the participation of member states and improving the quality of returns. The United States has already provided some of its ideas regarding enhancing transparency and openness. They proposed that the States exchange information on military holdings and procurement through national production.

The United States is disappointed that only some countries were willing to discuss important question that hit close to home, such as transparency in conventional arms transfers. The United States is also disappointed that some CD members attempted to expand the TIA focus to include weapons of mass destruction to try to redirect the discussion away from conventional arms issues which have a more direct bearing on their own security policies.

3. VIEWS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REGISTER AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Afghanistan

In view of the global interest shown for military transparency, Afghanistan has a particular interest in the security of its own region and therefore welcomes the UN Register. In this connection, Afghanistan calls upon all powers of the region to submit their returns to the Register. Afghanistan sees a serious need for effective international action to put restrictions on the sale and distribution of conventional weapons and to put an end to their illegal transaction.

Hungary

Although less than half of the total members of the United Nations (80) replied to the Register, it must be noted that the aggregate of the data provided on arms exports covers more than 90% of global arms exports, indicating some fairly good initial results of reporting, at least in one respect. In order to ensure the universally representative nature of the Register, the geographical imbalances in reporting should be remedied, and certain regionally relevant States should also provide their input. Further contributions to the Register would increase the confidence-building effect not only globally, but also regionally. It must be stressed that transparency in armaments should be a cooperative undertaking, although unilateral steps are also welcome.

Israel

After the Gulf War, it was evidently clear that the excessive accumulation of huge arsenals that go beyond the need of national defence is a major source of instability in the region. Israel, therefore, continues to believe that a special effort has to be made to curb arms supplies to the Middle East, especially in view of the ongoing process aimed at bringing peace and stability to the region. In that spirit, Israel supported the resolution on "Transparency in Armaments" and submitted the necessary