be through the National Authority. The National Authority will be responsible for all internal collection and collation of data from the participating nation.

INFORMATION FLOW

Information will flow from each National Authority to the Secretariat. The staff will update the data base using information supplied by each National Authority. Minor administrative clarifications and corrections will be handled between the National Authority and the Secretariat. If a policy interpretation or ruling is required, any National Authority may ask for a meeting of the Consultative Commission to be convened to discuss the issue, to query another nation or seek clarification of data supplied by other nations. Bilateral consulttions between participating states should be encouraged as a first step, of course.

The information flow will be timely. While there will be a requirement for a minimum annual submission from participating countries, nations will be encouraged to submit partial information and changes to data as they occur. This, in turn, will be updated and available electronically to all participating nations and the general public immediately.

It is understood that all nations may not have in place the necessary internal national mechanisms to provide data for all the requested categories. Countries may provide partial information. Provision has been made for participating nations to amplify their submitted data, or lack of it, and for these comments to be included in the light weapons register.

THE REGISTER DATA BASE

A light weapons register data base will be created by the Secretariat using the information submitted on Form A by each participant nation. The data base will be updated by the submission of a new Form A, or a Form C, from the National Authority.

The light weapons register data base will be held on a central server. This will be accessible by the public via the Internet. Public access will be read-only. Write-only permission will be retained solely by the Secretariat. National Authorities will not have access to the central server and all changes will be made to the data base by the Secretariat. National Authorities will submit changes to the Secretariat and, after confirmation that they are technically error-free, the staff will update the data base for each country.

The data base will be configured in such a manner that information can be extracted in a number of comparative formats. For instance, information should be obtainable by country, by weapon category, by type of transaction or by any other variable. A standard search engine will be incorporated into the data base to provide the selection variables for research purposes. These should have simple, pull-down menus to facilitate accessibility by the general public.