

has its own problems and has been recognized as being only partially effective. In constructing a light weapons register, cognizance must be taken of previous experience in a number of areas including the UN Register to allow policy makers to form a clear idea of future problems that will need to be faced.

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The aim of this paper is to discuss relevant practical considerations for a potential small arms and light weapons register to help ensure that it is a worthwhile and viable measure, and to propose a model which may be followed in establishing such a register. The paper is in two parts.

The first part highlights some of the general points to be considered when designing a light weapons register. The discussion draws on work which has been done in assessing the present United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, and on experience extrapolated from the operation and results of other arms control regimes and agreements. In the discussion, various approaches to a light weapons register are suggested. It must be accepted that any register which is finally negotiated might be very different from the most desirable model for any number of reasons. The discussion aims to provide a clearer understanding of the possible effects of inclusion or exclusion of a particular feature.

The second part of the paper outlines a model for a light weapons register. It provides a possible format and explanatory notes for a register based on the points noted in the first part of the paper. The model is in outline only and it could logically be expected that modifications will be made to accommodate the conditions prevailing among interested parties at the time they wish to proceed with such a project.

This discussion of a small arms and light weapons register proceeds from the premise that such a register is desired by some international or regional organization or group of nations and that there is a will on the part of participants to make the necessary arrangements to put a light weapons register into effect. Whether or not this is a global or regional effort is not important to the methodology of the model outlined. The points that follow look at the establishment of a light weapons arms transfer register from the aspects of content, organization and operation.