

Conference on Disarmament (CD) was charged with addressing the Register in regards to including military holdings and procurement through national production, defining excessive and destabilizing accumulations, high technology with military applications and making transparent weapons of mass destruction. It completed the first year of its work on transparency in September 1993 and issued a report. There were no decisions reached although several key topics were further developed. The western group and a few other states gave some support to a U.S. proposal to make transparent data on military holdings and procurement through national production. In the end the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments during the 1993 CD session was characterized by the group in its final report of 24 August 1993. The Committee 'conducted a substantive exchange of views on a number of complex issues... Many suggestions and working papers were presented on a wide variety of topics, and several of them contained concrete proposals for practical measures to increase openness and transparency. Although agreement has not been reached on these proposals, countries concurred that many of these issues contained therein were useful for future consideration and work...'²⁷ It is unclear at this point if the CD will generate any useful options or reach any conclusions that can be used by the 1994 Group, which finishes its work on 7 August 1994.

Resolution 46/36L also asked individual member states for their views on the first year of operations. Few have been submitted at this point although an upcoming *note verbale* from the Secretary General asking states for their views and urging them to submit a report by 30 April may spur some action. One interpretation of the lack of state views is that only a weak effort has been made by the Secretariat and the key states involved in the Register process to secure such views. Perhaps at this stage in its development, no news is good news. If the problem was the generation of views on a less sensitive and more low politics issue such as the environment or development, more states would give their input. This lack of response also has to be looked at as another indicator of indifference. The Register is not yet seen as a crucial tool for bringing about peace and security.

A final source of information for the Group will be the returns submitted in April for calendar year 1993 exports and imports. Preliminary data will be ready for the second session in the first two weeks of June and a fairly complete submission should be utilized during the last session. At this point the Centre for Disarmament Affairs is developing a first draft of the final report based on the outline mentioned above, to be considered by the Group in its session commencing 1 June 1994 in New York.

²⁷ *Report of the Ad hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments*, CD Document CD/1218 (Geneva: Conference on Disarmament, 24 August 1993), 14.