

Register will not stop the deliberate transfer of weapons from one state to another--as occurred in Iraq. It is not designed as an arms control regime.

The Register is, however, a confidence-building measure designed to encourage political accountability, and to provide a starting point for future arms control negotiations. The submission of a report to the Register signals a state's willingness to enter into a mutual security dialogue. Before the creation of the Register an arms deal was concluded between the importing and exporting nations, without the international community having the chance to participate in the negotiations. The UN Register, Regehr concludes, will provide the international community with a seat at the arms dealers' table, albeit with observer status.