

multidisciplinary way. That is exactly what is happening in the various regional and global fora dealing with the small arms problem, where a variety of transparency measures other than the UN Register are being discussed.

In sum, transparency is needed to assist in preventing and reducing the negative effects of the accumulation, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. This may well include regional arms Registers and progress has been made to this effect in both Africa and Latin America. However, there does not appear to be a role for the UN Register in the development of transparency measures for this class of weapon.

VIII. Recommendations for Action

Suggested improvements currently on the table

There is no shortage of suggestions that have been made concerning improvements to the Register. Many were put forward prior to and during the 1997 review, but no agreement on them could be reached. In every review of the Register to date, each suggestion for adding or expanding a category has reflected the national interests of the state proposing the change, and it is countered by a proposal from another state.

The current proposals include:

- 1) Adding light weapons
- 2) Adding weapons of mass destruction
- 3) Developing four-pronged typology of enhancements described in the 1997 study by

Bradford University *Developing Arms Transparency: The Future of the UN Register* (pp.93-98). These enhancement involve:

- i. Full expansion to include military holdings (MH) and procurement from national production (PNP).
- ii. Developing an agreed-upon form for reporting MH and PNP together with some language that indicated less of an obligation to do so than for transfers.
- iii. Expanding the Register to include PNP on the same basis as transfers.
- iv. Developing an agreed-upon form for reporting PNP only and have it remain in the "Background Information" category.

There are several problems with the above list. First, it by no means covers the changes and enhancements that could be made. This list only reflects ideas that surfaced early in the development of the Register and were put off due to the now obvious difficulty in reaching agreement on them at the creation. Some new thinking is needed to break the present impasse. Second, and more important, these suggested enhancements and changes only address *what* is to be achieved, not *how* they are to be achieved. What follows are