

the Register could be improved. To begin with, he supports regional seminars designed to encourage participation. Moreover, he suggests the examination of the Register's existing framework by the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

For their part, the French government supports the Register concept. France would like to see the Register gradually expanded in several directions: first, define key terms and weapons categories; second, disaggregate the reported data; third, include, as the ultimate stage in a gradual process, a legally binding verification scheme; and, finally, examine existing confidence-building measures (e.g. Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)) and adapt their framework to promote regional transparency.

303. Borga, Giuseppe Maria. "Italy's Promotion of Transparency in Armaments." In *Disarmament Topical Papers 15: Transparency in Armaments: The Mediterranean Region*, New York: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 1993, pp. 40-46.

Relating Italy's perspective on arms control, Borga argues that transparency in armaments is an important concept. It ensures that ill-founded estimates and misperceptions by the international community can be avoided. He interprets the creation of the UN Register of Conventional Arms to be an important step. However, he cautions against retaining its current format, and offers several areas for improvement. First, expand its coverage to include data on military holdings and procurement through national production. Second, record the transfer of high technology with military applications. Third, clarify key definitions to ensure accurate reports. Fourth, given that transparency is based on reciprocal trust formed through personal contacts, increase the number of meetings between military experts. Fifth, increase the number of international information seminars on the Register. Finally, promote inter-governmental cooperation to control illegal arms trafficking.

304. Boutros-Ghali, Boutros. *Report of the Secretary General: New Dimensions of Arms Regulation and Disarmament in the Post-Cold War Era*. New York: United Nations, 1993.

Boutros-Ghali details the profound changes which have taken place in the international community during the last five years and relates the corresponding trends in disarmament. He suggests that disarmament agreements be pursued in the following manner: first, they should be integrated with larger issues of general peace and security; second, they should be global in scope; and, finally, existing agreements should be used as a foundation for developing future disarmament measures. The UN Register of Conventional Arms is addressed as part of the last suggestion. Boutros-Ghali argues that the Register's goal, transparency, is not a substitute for disarmament. It is only an important step in that direction. He appeals to UN member states to support this new measure by participating and by supplying financial resources to ensure its survival.