

X. Maximum effort should be made at the international level to promote the regionalization of the Register as a supplement to, not a substitute for, the global UN Register.

XI. Work should begin now on developing a consultative mechanism which can perform the required functions of a cooperative security regime, especially interpretation, dispute settlement and sanctions. Initially this effort should focus on an annual panel, eventually emerging into a GATT-like panel if the norms of the Register take hold.

Future Research

Much of the research to be conducted in the support of the Register is obvious from this report and its major policy proposals. However, the one area where some extensive academic research could produce some meaningful results is in the area of developing a consultative mechanism for the Register. Summarized below is a proposal previously submitted by the author to the United States Institute of Peace. Even if this research grant is funded, the subject matter is so complex that it would benefit greatly from a multi-disciplinary effort and is submitted in the hope that a joint U.S.-Canadian research effort could tackle the research.

Focused Comparison of Arms Build-Ups

The UN Register is ultimately intended to prevent 'excessive and destabilizing accumulations' of armaments. Yet accurately defining such, especially in advance of a conflict, is problematic. The first part of the research will seek to broach this issue by conducting a focused comparison of cases where build-ups did and did not lead to conflict, leading to policy relevant theory regarding the correlation between arms build-ups and the initiation of hostilities. Particular attention will be paid to the role of perceptions in the interplay between weapon accumulations and conflict. The goal is to develop a set of parameters which would enable the Register (or similar transparency instruments) to identify, track and provide timely warning of potential conflict. Such research will not only build upon the methods currently employed by national intelligence, noting the limitations on such methods at the regional or international level, but also draw upon the extensive earlier work of Dr. Laurance and others (e.g., Stephanie Neuman, Robert Harkavy, Keith Krause, and the CASCON project at MIT) in assessing relative capabilities while taking into account the perceptions and misperceptions of actors.

Specifically, the following questions will be asked for each of the cases: .