

UNITED NATIONS
REGISTER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS
REPORT OF THE 2006
GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
HIGHLIGHTS



Department for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations, New York

Established in 1992, as a voluntary reporting mechanism, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms promotes transparency in the export and import of conventional weapons, namely, battle tanks; armoured combat vehicles; large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters; warships (including submarines); and missiles and missile-launchers (including Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems).

Pending further development of its scope, the Register also invites Member States to report on procurement through national production, military holdings, and transfers of small arms and light weapons as part of additional background information.

So far, a total of 170 Member States have participated in the Register at least once since its establishment. On average, more than 115 States have been reporting each year since 2000. The level of participation has ranged from a low of 85 for calendar year 1998 to a high of 126 for calendar year 2001.



Members of the 2006 Group of Governmental Experts

The operation and further development of the Register are reviewed periodically by governmental experts appointed by the Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly. The latest review was completed in July 2006.

This brochure contains some highlights from the report of the 2006 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). The 2006 GGE report and other documents, including guidelines, standardized reporting forms, can be accessed at:
<http://disarmament.un.org/cab/register.html>

For further information

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Report of the 2006 Group of Governmental Experts

(A/61/261)

HIGHLIGHTS

In its consensus report, the 2006 GGE recommended inter alia the following:

- The definition of Category VI, "Warships" be amended to reflect the lowering of the tonnage of vessels from 750 metric tons to 500 metric tons. The definition should read as follows:

Vessels or submarines armed and equipped for military use with a standard displacement of 500 metric tons or above, and those with a standard displacement of less than 500 metric tons, equipped for launching missiles with a range of at least 25 kilometres or torpedoes with similar range.

- Member States that are in a position to do so provide data and information on small arms and light weapons transfers to the Register as part of additional background information on the basis of the standardized reporting form on international transfers of small arms and light weapons, as adopted by the Group, or any other methods they deem appropriate.
- Transfers involving only United Nations Member States should be reported to the UN Register.
- Member States should participate in the UN Register in order to achieve the shared goals of this global transparency mechanism, including universal participation.
- Member States should consider providing support and assistance to the Secretariat in carrying out the recommendations addressed to it, including the holding of workshops and seminars to advance the objectives of the Register.
- Member States should also consider including the subject of the UN Register in workshops and other relevant meetings organized by them in the disarmament field.
- Member States should submit "nil" reports to confirm that they do not have any international transfer to declare.
- Member States should continue to provide details of their national point of contact in the standardized reporting forms when submitting their annual reports to the Register and ensure that this information is up-to-date when submitting annual reports to the Register

Annex

Information on international transfers of small arms and light weapons¹ (exports)

EXPORTS

Reporting country: _____

National point of contact: _____
 (Organization, Division/Section, telephone, fax, e-mail)
 (FOR GOVERNMENTAL USE ONLY)

Calendar year: _____

A	B	C	D	E	REMARKS	
					Description of item	Comments on the transfer
SMALL ARMS						
1.	Revolvers & self-loading pistols					
2.	Rifles & carbines					
3.	Sub-machine guns					
4.	Assault rifles					
5.	Light machine guns					
6.	Others					
LIGHT WEAPONS						
1.	Heavy machine guns					
2.	Hand-held under-barrel & mounted grenade launchers					
3.	Portable anti-tank guns					
4.	Recoilles rifles					
5.	Portable anti-tank missile launchers & rocket systems					
6.	Mortars of calibres less than 75mm					
7.	Others					

National criteria on transfers:

¹ The standardized forms provide options for reporting only aggregate quantities under the generic categories of "Small Arms" and "Light Weapons" and/or under their respective subcategories. See the UN Information Booklet 2007 (<http://disarmament.un.org/cab/register.html>) for questions and answers regarding the reporting of small arms and light weapons. The categories provided in the reporting form do not constitute a definition of "Small Arms" and "Light Weapons".

**Information on international transfers of
small arms and light weapons¹ (imports)**

IMPORTS

Reporting country: _____

National point of contact: _____
(Organization, Division/Section, telephone, fax, e-mail)
(FOR GOVERNMENTAL USE ONLY)

Calendar year: _____

A	B	C	D	E	REMARKS	
					Description of item	Comments on the transfer
	Exporter State(s)	Number of items	State of origin (if not exporter)	Intermediate location (if any)		
SMALL ARMS						
1.	Revolvers & self-loading pistols					
2.	Rifles & carbines					
3.	Sub-machine guns					
4.	Assault rifles					
5.	Light machine guns					
6.	Others					
LIGHT WEAPONS						
1.	Heavy machine guns					
2.	Hand-held under-barrel & mounted grenade launchers					
3.	Portable anti-tank guns					
4.	Recoilles rifles					
5.	Portable anti-tank missile launchers & rocket systems					
6.	Mortars of calibres less than 75mm					
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Report of the 2006 Group of Governmental Experts: Excerpts from the foreword by the UN Secretary-General

"I welcome the important gains being made towards wider participation and greater transparency in the Register. The Group has also put forward a number of recommendations for strengthening the Register further still. In particular, it has agreed on a standardized form for reporting transfers of small arms and light weapons among States, on an optional basis. This marks a step towards overcoming the lack of transparency in this area, and should also help in combating illicit trafficking of these arms."



"At a time when the international community faces major challenges in pursuing disarmament and upholding the non-proliferation regime, the positive outcome of the Group's deliberations is especially welcome."

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