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<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>OVERHAULING THE UN REGISTER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS</b>
<b>Disarmament focus:</b>	<b>Transparency in armaments</b>
<b>Project manager:</b>	<b>Mr. Yuriy Kryvonos</b>
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<b>Proposed timeframe:</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>Geographical focus:</b>	<b>Global</b>

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## **BACKGROUND**

A core element in preventing conflict and securing peace and stability is encouraging predictable, transparent behaviour of all States. One of the instruments to that end is the UN Register. It includes data provided by Member States on arms transfers, as well as information on military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies. The Register's aim is to foster regional and international confidence-building measures; transparency in armaments can help prevent destabilizing accumulations of arms and can form a key tool in preventive diplomacy. The Register has been steadily expanding its scope.

Man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) as well as other small arms and light weapons (SALW) have been widely used by terrorists. As it was stressed by the UN Secretary-General,<sup>1</sup> "it is in the interests of all Member States to make it harder for terrorists to acquire those systems and to prevent them from using such weaponry." To this end, the Secretary-General also specifically urged "greater participation in and more accurate reporting to the UN Register of Conventional Arms".

Significantly, in 2003, the General Assembly decided that international transfers of MANPADS should be reported under the category 7 (missiles and missile launchers) of the Register. Member States could also include their transfers of other SALW in their reports as additional background information.

UNODA is mandated to keep records and maintain a publicly available database of information to the Register provided by Member States. Over the years this has become an increasingly limited and outdated system. There is an urgent need to overhaul the Register database to allow for the dynamic, interactive search for information and its further analysis.

Furthermore, many States experience a growing burden of reporting. Web-based online reporting can save time, and has additional advantages. It can contribute to greater participation in reporting and will allow for the direct transfer of data from States' submissions into the database.

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<sup>1</sup> A/60/825, Report of the Secretary-General on "Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy". Para 45.

Technical and operational limitations of the Register database were already noted by the Group of Governmental Experts on the Register in its 2006 report, which recommended that ODA “should overhaul the Register database on its website with a view to making it more user-friendly and up-to-date technologically”. At the same time, the Group of Experts also recommended that “the Department should conduct a pilot project with the support of interested Member States to test the feasibility of electronic filing of reports to the Register in order to determine the practical requirements for making such a facility available to Member States”. These recommendations were endorsed by the General Assembly.<sup>2</sup>

### **OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the value of the UN Register firstly by ensuring easy and reliable access to information submitted to it by Member States through the development of a dynamic search function that would allow users to quickly and comprehensively search for information provided in the UN Register. And secondly, by improving the reporting to the Register through providing States the option of submitting reports electronically.

### **CONTENT AND DESIGN**

This project will be carried out in two phases:

The first phase is the development of a new database which enables the quick and detailed search of information provided to the UN Register.

Currently, the database displays information that is organized by year or reporting country only. The aim of the overhaul is to create a comprehensive search function for the database that would enable users to request data according to one or more of the following criteria at the same time: (i) countries mentioned as final exporter/importer; (ii) years of report submission or time-frames; (iii) type of transfers; (iv) categories of major conventional arms; (v) specific types of weapons systems; (vi) types of provided background information and information on national export policy; and (vii) “nil” report policy.

Phase two of the project would be the development of a function that would allow the electronic submission of reports to the UN Register. States will, at the end of the project, have the option of electronically submitting their national reports by logging into the UNODA website with a password. It is foreseen that information provided through electronic reporting will feed directly into the database resulting in substantially higher levels of efficiency, security and accuracy.

### **IMPACT**

The expected outcome of the project implementation is significant improvement of the utility of the Register website and database for States, think-tanks, NGOs and individual researchers. This will improve the ability to perform analysis of information on States’ export and import of conventional arms and additional background information on

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<sup>2</sup> Res.A/61/77

military holdings, procurement through national production, and international transfers of SALW.

**BENEFICIARIES**

The beneficiaries of the project are Member States, think tanks, NGOs and individual researchers including academics and journalists.

**PARTNERS**

UNODA will further develop the specifications and requirements with respect to the functioning of the database. Based on these specifications, UNODA together with UN technical experts will identify the technical resources required.

BUDGET ITEMS	IN US\$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmer / consultant for 5 months</li> <li>• Data entry assistant for 2 months</li> </ul>	30,000 8,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structured Query Language database acquisition (data server hosting including one year maintenance)</li> <li>• Web application hosting (asp) for 5 years</li> <li>• Annual maintenance cost for 4 years</li> <li>• Visualization software development</li> <li>• Programme support cost (13%)</li> </ul>	8,000 10,000 14,000 40,000 14,300
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED</b>	<b>124,300</b>
<b><i>TOTAL SECURED FUNDING</i></b>	<b>114,500</b>
<b>FUNDING GAP</b>	<b><u>9,800</u></b>