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**PROJECT:**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON PROMOTING  
TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS: REPORTING ON  
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND MILITARY  
EXPENDITURES**

**Disarmament focus:**

**Conventional arms, including SALW, and  
military budgets**

**Project manager:**

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**Proposed timeframe:**

**May 2009 – November 2010**

**Geographical focus:**

**West and Central Africa, Latin America and  
Caribbean, Asia and Pacific**

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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. Significantly, in 2003, the General Assembly decided that Member States could include their transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in their reports to the Register.

Although 170 Member States reported at least once to the Register since its inception in 1991, the lack of consistency and the decline in participation of countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin American and Caribbean make the need of renewed promotion of this UN instrument quite an urgent one. Moreover, the drive towards an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) gives a special significance to promotion of the Register: the instrument is often seen as directly relevant to the discussions on a future ATT.

Over the past decade, regional workshops on the UN Register have contributed significantly to familiarity in Member States with its goals and with its reporting procedure. Due to a lack of funding, regional workshops have not been held in the past 3 years – possibly explaining the decrease in participation in the Register. UNODA stands ready to recommit to a series of workshops in those regions which at this juncture would benefit most from capacity building on transparency in armaments.

Such workshops may also give attention to the closely related UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, which is expected to lead to increased participation in that UN tool as well.

## **Objectives**

- To promote the role of the Register of Conventional Arms – in regions which can increase reporting levels – with national political and military experts as a unique UN instrument of transparency in conventional arms transfers. Increased participation may contribute to security and stability in the region.
- To assist recipient countries' personnel in compiling national reports to the Register and the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures.
- To raise awareness of the importance of compliance with the UN Register in order to promote the development of international standards for the export, import and transfer of conventional arms.

## **Content and design**

Upon indication of interest from a region, UNODA will facilitate, coordinate and develop suggestions on the design and content of the regional workshops. Each regional meeting aims at ensuring that representation is as inclusive as possible. The programme and agenda of each meeting will be determined in consultation with the Member States of the relevant region, tailoring to their regional specificities. Recurring elements will be an introduction to the Register, its value and potential, its relation to the discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty, compiling a national report using the template forms, and a session on the related UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures.

The regional workshop for the region of West and Central Africa will be organized back-to-back with the regional meeting on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (see page 21).

## **Impact**

- An increased awareness in participating Member States of the relevance of the Register and of the Instrument on Military Expenditures, and an increased awareness of the importance of reporting to them.
- Participants will acquire an understanding of the key role of the Register in the discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty.
- They will be trained in reporting to the instruments. As was the case with previous regional workshops, this is expected to lead to a more consistent participation of the countries of the regions in the UN instruments on reporting arms transfers and military expenditures.
- Lastly, the workshops will form a basis for further discussion on improvement of the operation of both instruments. (The Register has an in-built expansion / improvement mechanism through triennial Groups of Governmental Experts; the

Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures will be reviewed in 2010 for the first time since its inception two decades ago.)

### **Beneficiaries**

A more consistent participation in the UN instruments can contribute to building confidence among States, in particular at the regional level. Therefore, the beneficiaries of the project are Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations and societies as a whole.

### **Partners**

In organizing the workshops UNODA will work with interested Member States, partner organizations, regional organizations, research institutes and civil society.

### **Budget**

Cost estimates contain provisions for travel of delegates, experts and staff, conference servicing costs (e.g. interpretation, rental of premises and equipment) and temporary assistance for the organization of the meeting (see page 13). Please note that the figures provided are provisional and may be revised in light of new information which may become available to UNODA.

### ASIA AND PACIFIC \*

BUDGET ITEMS	IN US\$
• Project personnel (Temporary assistance)	10,000
• Conference services (e.g., premises, equipment, interpretation, local assistance)	13,700
• Travel	249,500
• Hospitality (coffee breaks and receptions)	2,500
• Programme support	35,800
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED</b>	<b>311,500</b>

### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN \*

BUDGET ITEMS	IN US\$
• Project personnel (Temporary assistance)	10,000
• Conference services (e.g., premises, equipment, interpretation, local assistance)	22,600
• Travel	179,200
• Hospitality (coffee breaks and receptions)	2,500
• Programme support	27,900
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED</b>	<b>242,200</b>

<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>553,700</b>
<b><i>TOTAL SECURED FUNDING</i></b>	<b><i>76,400</i></b>
<b>FUNDING GAP</b>	<b>477,300</b>

\* For the purpose of project management, subregional workshops can be organized depending on available funds.