United Nations Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: ODA/2024-00029/TIA

Submission of national reports to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA)

The Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 77/69 entitled "Transparency in armaments", adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2022.

By operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

> "*Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 31 May annually, with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports and rolling nil returns if appropriate, using the online reporting tool, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the recommendations contained in the respective reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;
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> *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement through national production and military holdings as part of their background information and to make use of the reference reporting form, or any other method they deem appropriate, for the respective elements".

Pursuant to this, UNODA stands ready to receive **national reports on transfers of major conventional arms, as well as small arms and light weapons, pertaining to the 2023 fiscal year by the deadline of 31 May 2024**.

Submissions to the UNROCA instrument will be made publicly available via the annual report of the Secretary-General and via an interactive, online database (www.unroca.org).

Governments that did not undertake any imports or exports of conventional arms that fall under UNROCA's seven main categories should submit a nil report. Nil reporting is important, as it allows for a truly global picture of trends in military spending, thus reinforcing the value of UNROCA as a confidence-building measure. Member States can also submit rolling nil reports, which will remain valid for three years, provided that the reporting State does not intend to export nor import any major conventional arms during that period. Rolling nil reports can be submitted by checking the appropriate box via the online reporting tool.

In line with the report of the 2022 Group of Governmental Experts, Member States are encouraged to provide information on the transfer of small arms and light weapons in parallel with transfers of arms that fall under the main seven categories.

Member States are encouraged to submit information via UNODA's secure, web-based reporting tool (www.unroca.org/reporting/login). Country-specific log-in details, including the username and password remain the same as last year. Log-in details can be requested by Permanent Missions and focal points by contacting UNODA.

Member States unable to submit information through the web-based reporting tool are invited to send reports directly to UNODA via e-mail at conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

In order to address reporting fatigue, the State Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) have decided to give reporting States the option to share their annual ATT report with UNODA to be used as a basis for a submission to UNROCA. This can be done by selecting the appropriate checkbox in the ATT's annual reporting template.

In an effort to build national reporting capacities, UNODA published a practical guide which provides step-by-step instructions on how to prepare and submit national reports to UNROCA. The guide as well as additional resources are available on UNODA's website (www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/register/).

Member States requiring any assistance are invited to reach out directly to UNODA (conventionalarms-unoda@un.org) or to Mr. Zihangu Fang (zihangu.fang@un.org).

The Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



5 February 2024