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OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MATTERS

Objectives, principles and mechanisms of openness in the military sphere

Working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Openness in the military sphere, elimination of excessive secrecy and objective information on military potentials are an important factor for the enhancement of universal security. Individual measures taken by States to promote openness must gradually develop into a broad policy of openness and eventually become an integral part of a global system to promote confidence and reduce the risk of war.

Objectives:

To promote confidence among States;

To avert crises and reduce the risk of military conflict, whether intentional or unintentional;

To increase the predictability of military activities;

To facilitate the process of arms limitation, reduction and elimination, and the verification of compliance with obligations assumed in this area;

To assist States in adopting purely defensive military doctrines and developing defensive postures for their armed forces.

Principles:

Across-the-board equality of States' rights, including their equal right of access to information obtained under multilateral agreements;

No prejudice to, and due regard for, the interests of the participating States; inadmissibility of using declassified information to the detriment of any side;

Extension of openness to all the components of the military potentials of States without exception;

Consistency of the volume and range of information with the objectives of the régime of openness;

Co-ordination on a reciprocal basis of parameters for exchange of information;

Provision of information on a regular basis;

The information must be accurate and, if necessary, be subject to verification pursuant to agreed procedures;

The régime of openness must apply to all national, island and overseas territories of its participants, as well as to their military bases, military-industrial and military facilities located in the territory of third countries not participating in the régime;

Measures to promote openness may be unilateral, bilateral or multilateral, and may use the potential of the United Nations.

Mechanisms:

Development and adoption in the United Nations of international criteria and parameters for openness in the military sphere could constitute one of the mechanisms;

Within this framework, a régime could be established for submission to the United Nations of data on the armed forces and armaments of Member States, and the existing standardized United Nations reporting system for military expenditures could also be used.
