

United Nations Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: ODA/2019-00072/TIA

SUBJECT: Submission of the report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 71/44 on Transparency in Armaments (United Nations Register of Conventional Arms)

The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 71/44 entitled “Transparency in armaments”, adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016. This resolution relates to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA).

By operative paragraph 4, 5 and 6 (a) of the resolution, respectively, 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 if appropriate [...];

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 de facto reporting form, or any other method they deem appropriate, for the respective elements;

Calls upon Member States to submit their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, including on whether the absence of small arms and light weapons as a main category in the Register has limited its relevance and directly affected decisions on participation, by completing the questionnaire to be dispatched by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat”.

1. National annual report

The Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to receive Member States’ national reports to UNROCA including on transfers of small arms and light weapons, pertaining to **calendar year 2018**.

A **nil report** can be submitted by Governments that last year did not record any imports or exports under UNROCA’s seven main categories of conventional arms, but are nevertheless committed to the principle of transparency in armaments.

Nil reports submitted for calendar year 2018 **will remain valid for three years**, provided that the reporting State does not register any export or import in the 3-year period. Accordingly, the nil-reporting State will be recorded, by default, as having reported to UNROCA every year during the 3-year period.

A nil report on the seven main categories of conventional weapons may still include information on international transfers of small arms and light weapons, and on issues such as national arms holdings and national arms export policies.

In line with the recommendations of the 2016 Group of Governmental Experts,¹ Member States are strongly encouraged, on a trial basis, to provide information on their international transfers of small arms and light weapons in parallel with the seven categories of the Register.

National reporting is done in a secure web-based environment. Please request your country's unique user account name and password through conventionalarms-unoda@un.org. Subsequently, your national report can be submitted through www.un.org/disarmament/register.

Only Permanent Missions or national points of contact on UNROCA can request the password. A list of national points of contact is attached to this note.

Deadline for submissions: **31 May 2018**.

2. Questionnaire

Resolution 71/44 mentions in addition to the national report a **questionnaire**. The questionnaire was developed and agreed by the 2016 Group of Governmental Experts,² and endorsed by the resolution. It was circulated to all Member States, in 2017, as an annex to the note verbale ODA/07-2017/TIA, dated 20 February 2017.

To date, thirteen Member States³ have forwarded their completed questionnaires to UNODA. Member States that have not already done so are called upon to forward their completed questionnaire to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by **5 March 2019**. A copy of the questionnaire is annexed to this note.

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.

6 February 2019

¹ A/72/293, Annex I. www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/milex/.

² Annex V to the report of the Group (A/71/259). www.un.org/disarmament/register.

³ Argentina, Bhutan, China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Madagascar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.