

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: ODA/2019-00122/MILEX

SUBJECT: Submission of the report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 72/20 on “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures” (MilEx)

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 72/20 entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”, adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 2017. This resolution relates to the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures (MilEx).

By operative paragraph 2, 4 and 5 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

*“Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving the broadest possible participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 30 April annually, with a report on their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, one of the online reporting forms, including, if appropriate, a nil report or the “single figure” report on military expenditures or any other format developed in the context of similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

*Invites* Member States in a position to do so to supplement their reports, on a voluntary basis, with explanatory remarks regarding submitted data to explain or clarify the figures provided in the reporting forms, such as the total military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product, major changes from previous reports and any additional information reflecting their defence policy, military strategies and doctrines;

*Invites* Member States to provide, preferably with their annual report, information on their national points of contact.”

By operative paragraph 8 (c), the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General:

“To circulate to Member States the questionnaire contained in annex I to the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and to collect the responses from Member States and provide a summary thereof in advance of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.”

By operative paragraph 9 (a) and (b), the General Assembly encourages Member States:

- (a) “To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;
- (b) To continue to provide the Secretary-General with their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the future functioning of and broadened participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure, as well as recommendations to facilitate its further development;
- (c) To complete the questionnaire contained in annex I to the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and to return it to the Secretary-General within the deadline to be set by him.”

1. National annual report

The Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to receive the national reports, pertaining to **calendar year 2018**, by 30 April 2019.

National reporting is done in a secure web-based environment. Reports can be submitted in all official UN languages.

Please request your country’s unique user account name and password through [conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org). Subsequently, your national report can be submitted through [www.un.org/disarmament/milex](http://www.un.org/disarmament/milex).

Governments are encouraged to submit one of three online reporting options: the standardized report or the simplified report – depending on the complexity of their military budget – or a nil report for those Governments that last year did not have any military expenditures but are nevertheless committed to the principle of transparency in military expenditures. Selecting the most appropriate form is a national decision. A single-figure report may also be submitted by email to [conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org) using the form annexed to this note (Annex II).

National views as requested in paragraph 8 (a) and (b) can also be submitted, under the appropriate tab of the web page, and will be reproduced in the Annex to the Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly – **if limited to a maximum of 400 words**, in line with the Secretary-General’s decision to reduce the length of reports by 10 per cent so as to comply with the respective General Assembly resolutions on control and limitation of documentation.

Those Member States with military and national security space activities are encouraged to include in their report such military space expenditure as well as other national security space activities.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Questionnaire

Paragraph 9 (c) of resolution 72/20 encourages Member States to complete a **questionnaire**. The questionnaire was developed and agreed by the 2016-2017 Group of Governmental Experts,<sup>2</sup> and endorsed by the resolution.

Member States are called upon to forward their completed questionnaire to [conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org) by **30 April 2019**. A copy of the questionnaire is annexed to this note (Annex I).<sup>3</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189\*, para. 38), General Assembly resolution 69/38.

<sup>2</sup> Annex V to the report of the Group (A/72/293), [www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/milex/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/milex/).

<sup>3</sup> To date, the following Member States have submitted their completed questionnaire: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Switzerland and Turkey.