

REFERENCE: ODA/18-2016/TIA

The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 68/43 entitled “Transparency in armaments” adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013.

This resolution relates to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA).

By operative paragraphs 3, 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 and to make use of the “Remarks” column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types or models;

Also invites Member States in a position to do so to provide additional information on transfers of small arms and light weapons on the basis of the optional standardized reporting form, as adopted by the 2006 group of governmental experts, or by any other methods they deem appropriate;

Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with 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, and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction”.

Reference is also made to the informal meeting of the First Committee of the General Assembly held on 3 December 2015 devoted to working methods and the Chair’s summary circulated thereon. Particular attention is drawn to discussions among Member States on the need to ensure the practical value of reports mandated in resolutions and decisions of the Committee. To this end, Member States are kindly encouraged to provide their constructive and focused views on the specific issues outlined in resolution 68/43, in particular operative paragraph 6 (a).

Annex enclosed

The Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to receive the information outlined above pertaining to **calendar year 2015** from the Permanent Missions' Governments through <https://www.unroca.org/reporting> by **27 May 2016**.¹

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

Please note that a 'nil report' on the seven main categories of conventional weapons may still include "additional background information" on possible transfers of small arms and light weapons, and on issues such as national arms holdings and national arms export policies.

Views expressed by Member States under the above-mentioned paragraph 6 (a) can be included under the appropriate tab, and will – **if limited to a maximum of 400 words** – be reproduced in the Annex to the Secretary-General's report. This is a firm limit in order to meet 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.

In order to facilitate accurate reporting through possible coordination between suppliers and recipient States, and following the recommendations contained in reports of the Secretary-General,² please also find attached an updated list of national points of contact on UNROCA.

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¹ If the secure Web-based filing of reports poses technical difficulties to a Government's national point of contact, please contact the Secretariat at: conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

² A/61/261 para. 126 (g).