

**General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
First Committee**

Transparency in Armaments

Reporting to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

Fact Sheet



**Office for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations, New York**

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the delegations of Member States to the General Assembly with factual background information to facilitate discussions on agenda item “General and complete disarmament: transparency in armaments” related, in particular, to “United Nations Register of Conventional Arms”.

II. OPERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGISTER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms¹ is a transparency arrangement primarily designed to prevent the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of conventional arms, and to provide restraint on arms transfers and military holdings. The effectiveness of the Register as a global confidence-building measure is linked to high participation in it. Therefore, consistent reporting to the Register by all Member States regardless of whether they are engaged in arms transfers – by submitting either a report on actual exports and imports or a “nil” return – is a crucial element in further enhancing its value.

The goal of universal participation in the Register also requires that its scope remains relevant to all Member States. In this regard, the operation of the Register foresees its regular review every three years by a group of governmental experts (GGE). The latest reviews resulted in some expansions of the Register’s scope, including that Member States are now invited to report on international transfers in small arms and light weapons (SALW). This inclusion of small arms was a response to a request by a number of States, which perceive the Register’s focus on major conventional arms as less relevant for them. It was also intended as a practical contribution to the international efforts aimed at combating and preventing illicit trafficking in SALW.

In the course of the on-going negotiations on an arms trade treaty (ATT), a majority of Member States have referred to the relevance of the Register for the future treaty, in particular in terms of information exchange.

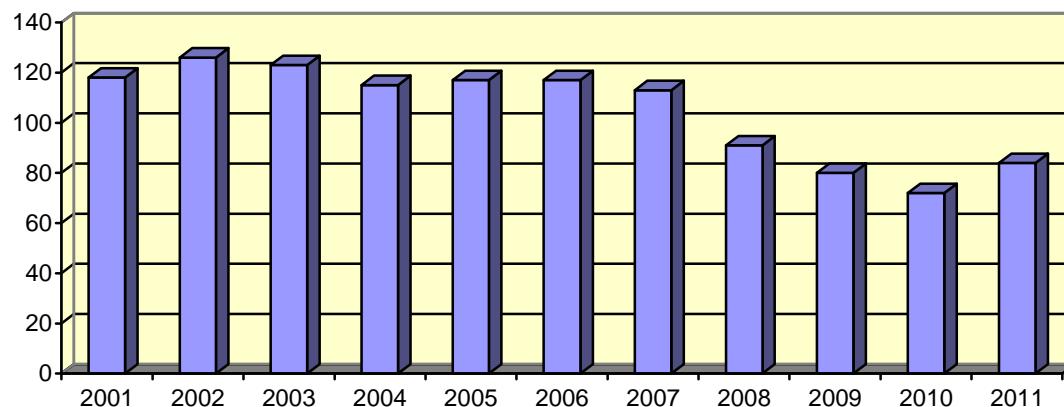
The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) collects information from Member States and maintains a database of the Register.² To date, 173 States, including 3 non-member States, have reported at least once to the Register since its establishment in 1991. After a decade of relatively high participation in the Register, however, the number of reporting States has declined lately. Responding to this situation and bearing in mind the need of further promotion of the Register, the UN Secretariat organized three regional workshops on Transparency in Armaments for States in West Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, the decline of the reporting rate – which began in 2008 – continued in 2009 and 2010 when UNODA received 72 national reports, the lowest number of reports submitted by Member States since the inception of the Register.

¹ Established by A/Res 46/36 L.

² Full data provided by Member States are reproduced in the report of the Secretary-General available at www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Register/HTML/RegisterIndex.shtml.

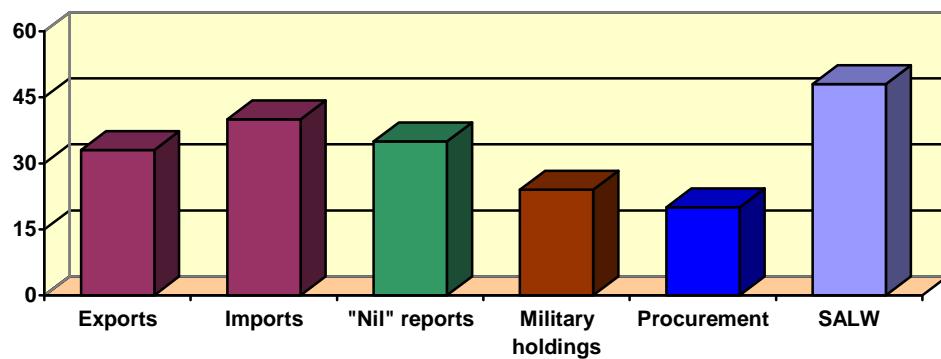
In 2011, UNODA received 84 national reports including 35 “nil” returns: 12 more reports submitted than last year.³ This is a positive sign indicating that the downward trend in the participation of Member States in the Register has been reversed. (Fig.1).

Figure 1: Global participation in the UN Register (2001-2011)



Every year, UNODA invites Member States to communicate by 31 May their reports to the UN Register on the export and import of conventional arms and additional background information for the previous calendar year.⁴ According to the 84 reports received thus far, 33 countries *exported* conventional arms, and 40 countries *imported* such weapons. Additional background information was included in 52 reports, a two-thirds of the total number of reports, of which 24 contained data on national military holdings, 20 on procurement through national production, and 48 on international transfers of SALW (Fig. 2). 33 States met the deadline for submitting reports. One State provided views regarding the inclusion of SALW as a new category of weapon to the UN Register.

Figure 2: Information reported to the Register in 2011 (84 reports)



³ As of 10 October 2011, 78 governments submitted their reports. 65 of them are included in the Report of the Secretary-General: United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (A/66/127), and the other reports will be published in an addendum to the main report.

⁴ For 2010: note verbale ODA/5-2009/TIA of 16 February 2010 with reference to GA resolution 64/54 entitled “Transparency in Armaments”.

III. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

The following graphs and tables show regional participation in the UN Register, as well as the trend in reporting international transfers of SALW through the Register.

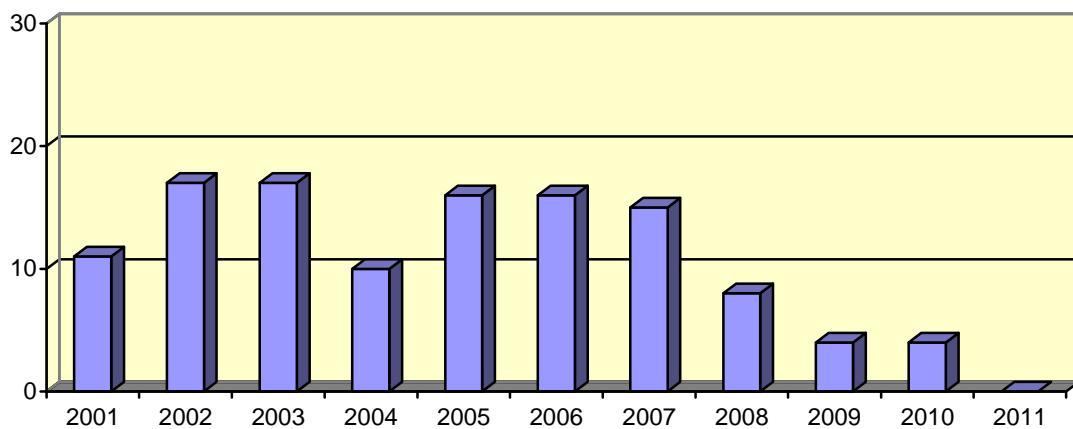
1. African Group of States. 39 of the 53 States belonging to this regional group reported at least once to the UN Register. In 2011, only one country from the region submitted their reports on export and import of conventional arms in the calendar year 2010.

Table 1. AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES

	Year of Secretary-General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of Reports	72	11	17	17	10	16	16	15	8	4	4	1
1.	Algeria												
2.	Angola												
3.	Benin	4 (1993-95; 1998)					Y						
4.	Botswana		Y										
5.	Burkina Faso	4 (1994-96; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
6.	Burundi						Y	Y			Y		
7.	Cameroon	3 (1995; 1997-98)											
8.	Cape Verde												
9.	Central African Republic	1 (1996)											
10.	Chad	2 (1994-95)											
11.	Comoros	1 (1994)		Y	Y		Y	Y				Y	
12.	Congo (Republic of the)												
13.	Cote D'Ivoire	1 (1994)			Y								
14.	D.R. Congo				Y		Y						
15.	Djibouti			Y		Y		Y	Y	Y			
16.	Egypt	1 (1993)											
17.	Equatorial Guinea												
18.	Eritrea ⁵												
19.	Ethiopia	3 (1996-98)											
20.	Gabon	1 (1996)					Y		Y				

⁵ Eritrea is a Member State since 1993.

Figure 3: African Group of States (53 countries)



2. Asian Group of States. 45 of the 53 States belonging to this regional group reported at least once to the UN Register. In 2011, 19 countries of the region submitted their reports on export and import of conventional arms in the calendar year 2010.

Table 2. ASIA AND PACIFIC GROUP OF STATES

	Year of Secretary- General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	200 3	200 4	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
11.	Indonesia	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		
12.	Iran	6 (1993-97; 1999)											
13.	Iraq												
14.	Japan	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15.	Jordan	4 (1994; 1996; 1998; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			
16.	Kazakhstan	7 (1993; 1995- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
17.	Kiribati ⁶	1 (1998)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
18.	Kuwait							Y					
19.	Kyrgyzstan	1 (1996)				Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	
20.	Laos				Y							Y	
21.	Lebanon	1 (1993)		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
22.	Malaysia	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y
23.	Maldives	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
24.	Marshall Islands	4 (1994-95; 1997; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
25.	Micronesia	1 (1998)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
26.	Mongolia	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
27.	Myanmar												
28.	Nauru ⁷		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
29.	Nepal	6 (1993-96; 1998; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
30.	Oman	1 (1993)											
31.	Pakistan	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
32.	Palau ⁸		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
33.	Papua New Guinea	6 (1993-96; 1998-99)											
34.	Philippines	7 (1993-99)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y		
35.	Qatar	3 (1993; 1998; 2000)											
36.	Republic of Korea	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
37.	Samoa	5 (1994-98)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
38.	Saudi Arabia												

⁶ Kiribati is a Member State since 1999.⁷ Nauru is a Member State since 1999.⁸ Palau is a Member State since 1994.

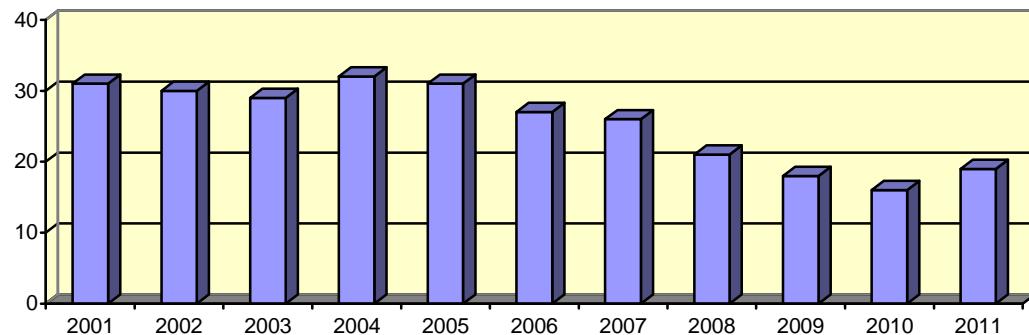
	Year of Secretary- General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	200 3	200 4	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
39.	Singapore	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
40.	Solomon Islands	4 (1993; 1995; 1998-99)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
41.	Sri Lanka	4 (1993-96)											
42.	Syria												
43.	Tajikistan	4 (1995-96; 1998-99)		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
44.	Thailand	7 (1994-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y
45.	Timor-Leste ⁹				Y								
46.	Tonga ¹⁰		Y			Y	Y		Y				
47.	Turkmenistan	5 (1996-2000)	Y				Y	Y					Y
48.	Tuvalu ¹¹	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
49.	United Arab Emirates												
50.	Uzbekistan	1 (2000)	Y	Y		Y							
51.	Vanuatu	4 (1993-96)	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y					
52.	Vietnam	6 (1995-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
53.	Yemen												

⁹ Timor-Leste is a Member State since 2002.

¹⁰ Tonga is a Member State since 1999.

¹¹ Tuvalu is a Member State since 2000.

Figure 4: Asian and Pacific Group of States (53 countries)

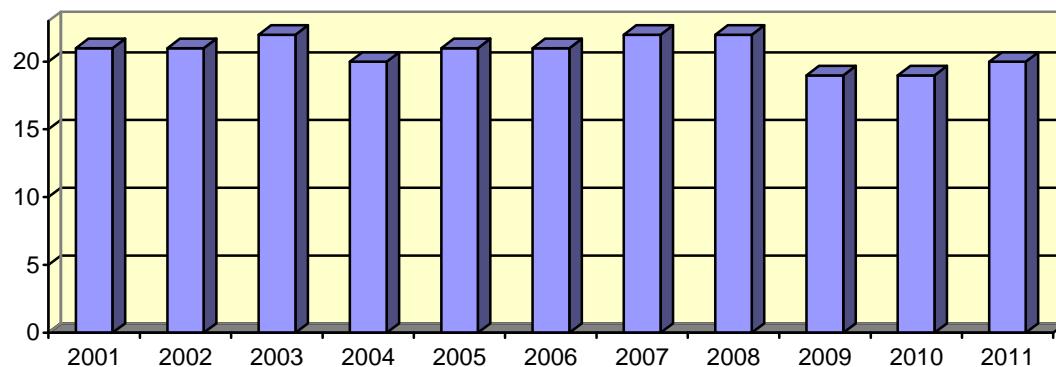


3. Eastern European Group of States. All 23 states belonging to this regional group reported at least once to the UN Register. In 2011, 21 countries of the region submitted their reports on export and import of conventional arms in the calendar year 2010.

Table 3. EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP OF STATES

	Year of Secretary-General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15.	Montenegro ¹²									Y			Y
16.	Poland	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
17.	Romania	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18.	Russian Federation	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19.	Serbia ¹³	3 (1993-95)		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
20.	Slovakia	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
21.	Slovenia	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
22.	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3 (1997-98; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
23.	Ukraine	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Figure 5: Eastern European Group of States (23 countries)



4. Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. All 33 States belonging to this regional group reported at least once to the UN Register. In 2011, 16 countries of this region submitted their reports on export and import of conventional arms in the calendar year 2010.

Table 4. GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

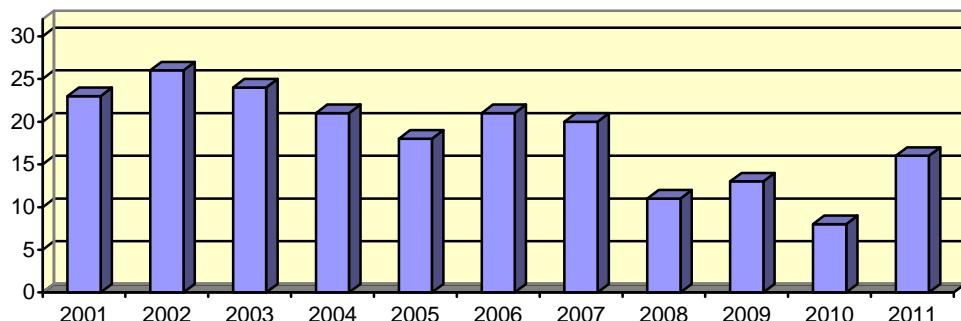
¹² Montenegro is a Member State since 2006.

¹³ Serbia is a Member State since 2000. In 1993-1995, information was provided by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

	Year of Secretary-General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of Reports	123	23	26	24	21	18	21	20	11	13	8	15
1.	Antigua and Barbuda	3 (1993-94; 1997)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2.	Argentina	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.	Bahamas	2 (1995-96)		Y		Y	Y		Y				
4.	Barbados	5 (1993-96; 1999)	Y	Y	Y	Y							
5.	Belize	4 (1995; 1997-98; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
6.	Bolivia	2 (1993; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
7.	Brazil	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8.	Chile	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9.	Colombia	1 (1993)								Y		Y	Y
10.	Costa Rica	2 (1999-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		
11.	Cuba	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
12.	Dominica	5 (1993-95; 2000)		Y									
13.	Dominican Republic	4 (1994; 1997; 1999-2000)											Y
14.	Ecuador	4 (1995; 1997; 1999-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y					Y
15.	El Salvador	1 (1995)				Y			Y	Y			Y
16.	Grenada	5 (1993-95; 1997; 2000)	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y
17.	Guatemala	4 (1997-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
18.	Guyana	4 (1995; 1997-98; 2000)	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y					Y
19.	Haiti			Y	Y				Y				
20.	Honduras	4 (1996-97; 1999-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y							
21.	Jamaica	6 (1993-96; 1998; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
22.	Mexico	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
23.	Nicaragua	1 (1993)						Y	Y				

	Year of Secretary-General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
24.	Panama	2 (1993-94)	Y	Y	Y				Y		Y		
25.	Paraguay	6 (1993-95; 1997-98; 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
26.	Peru	8 (1993-2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y
27.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 (1996)	Y	Y				Y					
28.	Saint Lucia	4 (1993-95; 1997)			Y		Y	Y	Y				
29.	St Vincent and the Grenadines	2 (1994; 1996)		Y			Y	Y	Y		Y		
30.	Suriname	1 (2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
31.	Trinidad and Tobago	5 (1994; 1996-98; 2000)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y
32.	Uruguay	2 (1999-2000)	Y	Y	Y								Y
33.	Venezuela	1 (1998)			Y								

Figure 6: Latin American and Caribbean States (33 countries)



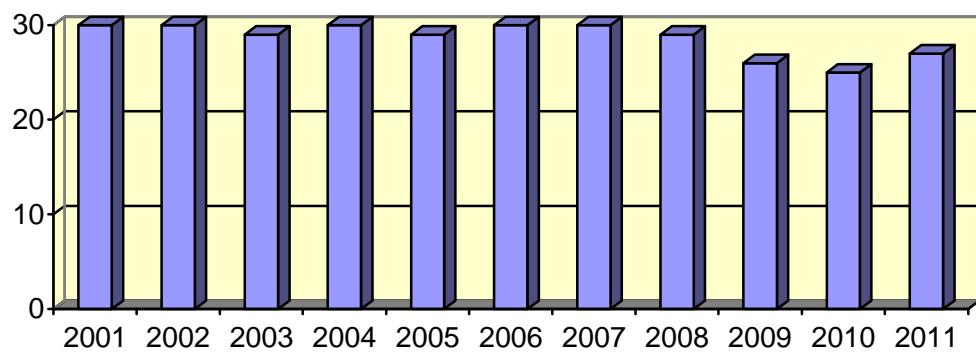
5. Group of Western European and Others States. All 30 States belonging to this regional group at least once reported to the UN Register. In 2011, 27 countries of this region submitted their reports on export and import of conventional arms in the calendar year 2010.

The Netherlands provided its view regarding the inclusion of small arms and light weapons as a new category of the UN Register.

Table 5. GROUP OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS STATES

	Year of Secretary- General Report	1993-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
26.	Sweden	8 (1993- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
27.	Switzerland ¹⁴	8 (1993- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
28.	Turkey	8 (1993- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
29.	United Kingdom	8 (1993- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
30.	USA	8 (1993- 2000)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Figure 7: Group of Western European and Other States (30 countries)



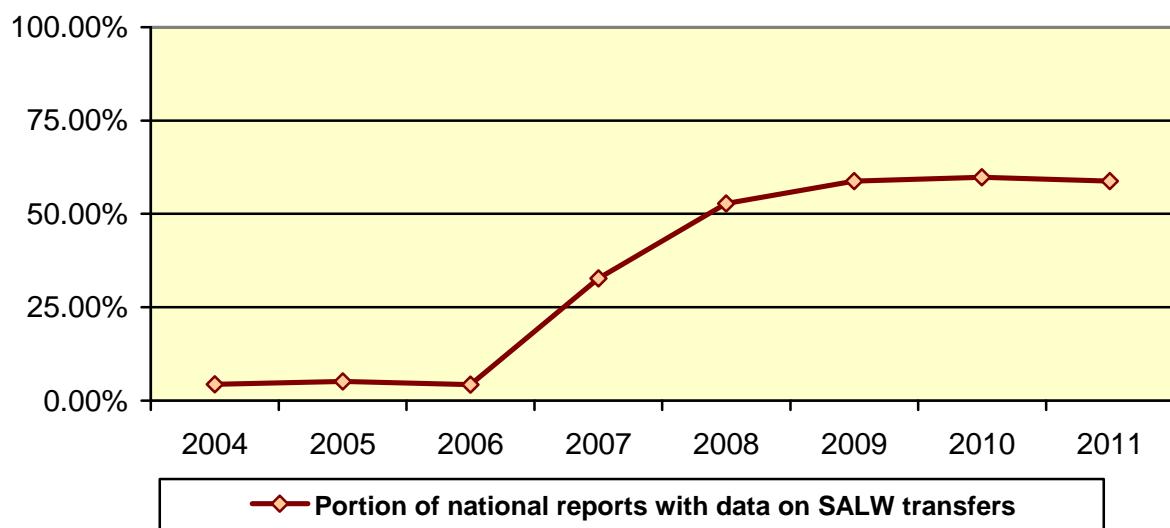
¹⁴ Switzerland is a Member State since 2002.

IV. PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF SMALL ARMS LIGH WEAPONS (SALW)

Responding to the growing concern by Member States with regard to the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), the General Assembly endorsed the 2003 GGE's recommendation and encouraged Member States who are in a position to do so to report annually their exports and imports of SALW to the UN Register in Conventional Arms. For this purpose, the 2006 GGE also developed a standardized reporting form on SALW transfers.

Since that time, 80 Member States reported their exports and imports of SALW, including providing "nil" reports at least once. In 2010 and 2011, two thirds of the national reports submitted to the Register contained data on SALW transfers, despite the overall decrease in the total number of reports submitted (Fig. 8). This proves the relevance of the Register as a reliable UN instrument to address the issue of trafficking in SALW for many Member States.

Figure 8. Reports with data on SALW transfers



The following graph (Fig. 9) and tables show the global participation in reporting transfers of SALW and regional distributions of submitted reports. To date, an overwhelming number of reports with data on the export and import of SALW, 32 out of 43, were submitted by States belonging to two regional groups which represent 53 Member States. In order to effectively prevent and combat illicit trafficking of SALW, Member States may wish to utilize every available measure that would help in achieving this common goal. The UN Register of Conventional Arms is one of them.

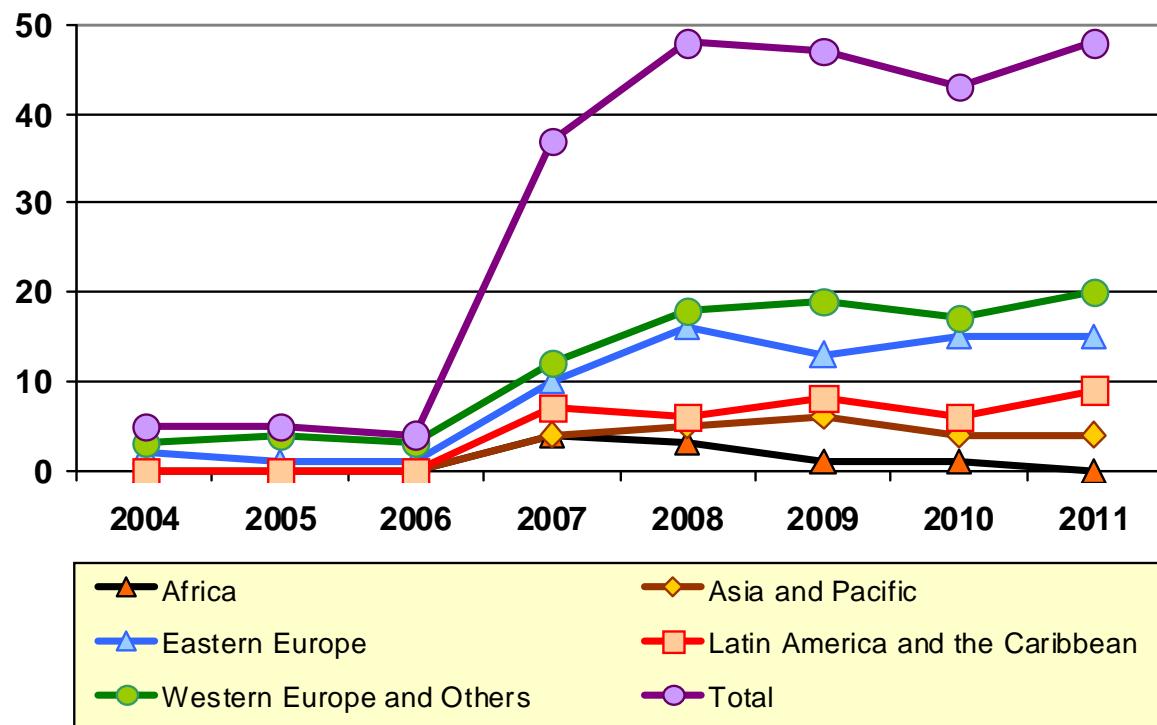


Table 6. Reporting on international transfers of SALW by African States¹⁵

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of reports to the Register	10	16	16	15	8	4	4	1
	No. of reports on SALW transfers	0	0	0	4	3	1	1	0
1.	Comoros							Y	
2.	Ghana					Nil			
3.	Mali				Nil				
4.	Senegal				Y				
5.	Togo				Nil	Nil			
6.	Swaziland				Nil	Nil	Nil		

¹⁵ In this and following tables ‘Nil’ means that a State provided ‘nil’ report on its export and import of SALW.

Table 7. Reporting on international transfers of SALW by States Asia and Pacific

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of reports to the Register	32	31	27	26	21	18	16	19
	No. of reports on SALW transfers	0	0	0	3	5	6	4	4
1.	Bangladesh				Y	Y	Y		Nil
2.	Brunei Darussalam					Y			
3.	Fiji					Nil			
4.	Indonesia					Y	Y		
5.	Japan ¹⁶		PNP	PNP	PNP	PNP	PNP	PNP	
6.	Kazakhstan						Y	Y	
7.	Lebanon						Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Mongolia								Nil
9.	Philippines				Nil		Y		
10.	Republic of Korea				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11.	Thailand							Y	

Table 8. Reporting on international transfers of SALW by Eastern European States

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of reports to the Register	20	21	21	22	22	19	19	21
	No. of reports on SALW transfers	2	1	1	10	16	13	15	15
1.	Albania				Y	Y		Y	Y
2.	Armenia					Y	Y	Y	Y
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina				Y	Y		Y	Y
4.	Belarus								Nil
5.	Bulgaria						Y	Y	Y
6.	Croatia					Y	Y		Y
7.	Czech Republic				Y	Y	Y		Y

¹⁶ Japan reported procurement of SALW through national production (PNP) in the years 2004 - 2009. It is not counted into the total number of States that reported on SALW transfers.

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
8.	Georgia				Y	Y			
9.	Hungary				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10.	Latvia	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11.	Lithuania				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12.	Moldova				Nil	Nil	Y	Y	
13.	Montenegro					Y			Y
14.	Poland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15.	Romania					Y	Y	Y	
16.	Serbia							Y	Y
17.	Slovakia				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18.	Slovenia					Y	Y	Y	
19.	The FYR of Macedonia							Y	
20.	Ukraine					Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 9. Reporting on international transfers of SALW by Latin American and Caribbean States

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of reports to the Register	21	18	21	20	11	13	8	16
	No. of reports on SALW transfers	0	0	0	7	6	8	6	9
1.	Antigua and Barbuda				Y	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Argentina ¹⁷					Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bolivia						Y		
4.	Chile					Y	Y	Y	Y
5.	Colombia					Y		Y	Y
6.	El Salvador					Nil			
7.	Grenada								Y
8.	Guyana								Nil
9.	Haiti				Y				
10.	Jamaica				Y				
11.	Mexico				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12.	Panama				Y		Y		

¹⁷ In 2008 – 2010, Argentina also reported on military holdings of SALW.

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
13.	Peru						Y	Y	Y
14.	Saint Lucia				Nil				
15.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines						Y		
16.	Trinidad and Tobago				Y				Y

Table 10. Reporting on international transfers of SALW by States from the Group of Western European and Others

	Year of Secretary-General Report	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	No. of reports to the Register	30	29	30	30	29	26	25	27
	No. of reports on SALW transfers	3	4	3	13	18	19	17	20
1.	Andorra								Y
2.	Australia					Y	Y	Y	Y
3.	Austria								Y
4.	Belgium						Y		
5.	Canada				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6.	Cyprus				Y	Nil	Nil		
7.	Denmark				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8.	Finland		Y						
9.	France		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
10.	Germany				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11.	Greece				Y	Y		Y	Y
12.	Iceland								Y
13.	Ireland						Y	Y	Y
14.	Italy					Y	Y	Y	Y
15.	Liechtenstein				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
16.	Luxembourg					Y			
17.	Malta					Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Netherlands	Y							
19.	New Zealand				Y	Y	Y		
20.	Norway					Y	Y	Y	Y
21.	Portugal				Y	Y	Y	Nil	Y
22.	San Marino							Y	

