Sixty-fourth session  
First Committee  
Agenda item 86 (b)  
Reduction of military budgets: objective information  
on military matters, including transparency of  
military expenditures

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria,  
Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark,  
Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany,  
Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan,  
Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar,  
Mali, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal,  
Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal,  
Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zambia: draft resolution

Objective information on military matters, including transparency  
of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/72 of 4 December 1998, 54/43 of 1 December  
1999, 56/14 of 29 November 2001, 58/28 of 8 December 2003, 60/44 of 8 December  
2005 and 62/13 of 5 December 2007 on objective information on military matters,  
including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced  
the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,  
of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States  
to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the  
guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and  
inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information  
regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then, national reports on military expenditures and on the  
guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have
been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographical regions,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Also convinced that transparency in military matters is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States worldwide and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

Noting the role of the standardized reporting system, as instituted through its resolution 35/142 B, as an important instrument to enhance transparency in military matters,

Conscious that the value of the standardized reporting system would be enhanced by a broader participation of Member States,

Noting that the continuing operation of the standardized reporting system should be reviewed with a view to improving its further development and to broadening participation in it,

Welcoming, therefore, the report of the Secretary-General\(^1\) on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the standardized reporting system,

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

Recalling the establishment of a group of governmental experts, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to review the operation and further development of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, commencing in 2010, taking into account the views expressed by Member States on the subject and the reports of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,\(^2\)

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the Standardized Instrument under the current political and economic circumstances,

1. Calls upon Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument\(^3\) as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations, and, in the same context, encourages Member States to submit nil returns, if appropriate;

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\(^1\) A/54/298.
\(^2\) See resolution 62/13.
\(^3\) www.un.org/disarmament/convarsms/Milex/html/MilexIndex.shtml.
2. Recommends the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

3. Encourages relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarities among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

4. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, within available resources:
   (a) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of data to the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, together with the reporting format and related instructions, and to publish in a timely fashion in appropriate United Nations media the due date for transmitting data on military expenditures;
   (b) To circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States, taking into account in his 2010 report the information received from Member States in accordance with paragraph 6 (b) below;
   (c) To transmit the report of the group of governmental experts to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-sixth session;
   (d) To continue consultations with relevant international bodies, with a view to ascertaining requirements for adjusting the present instrument, with a view to encouraging wider participation, and to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the standardized reporting system;
   (e) To encourage relevant international bodies and organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to consult with those bodies and organizations with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarities among international and regional reporting systems and for exchanging related information between those bodies and the United Nations;
   (f) To encourage the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;
   (g) To promote international and regional/subregional symposiums and training seminars to explain the purpose of the standardized reporting system and to give relevant technical instructions;

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(h) To report on experiences gained during such symposiums and training seminars;

6. 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 broaden participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure, which could be taken into account by the group of governmental experts during its mandated activity;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”.