



## Register of Conventional Arms, and the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures.

In considering our common challenges and our tools available to address them across all these fields, the Committee should recall the advice of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who urged the General Assembly -- on its opening day this session -- not to "shy away from questions about the adequacy, and effectiveness, of the rules and instruments at our disposal." Given the urgent concern about the imminent spread of deadly weapons, it would not suffice merely to recite the norms of prohibition. But we need urgently to explore practical ways to strengthen international peace and security through multilateral cooperation. It was in this spirit that the Secretary-General also urged Member States to "face up squarely to the concerns that make some States feel uniquely vulnerable, since it is those concerns that drive them to take unilateral action." "We must," he added, "show that those concerns can, and will, be addressed effectively through collective action."

As in any system of law, the various multilateral instruments and institutions in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control depend upon three essential conditions. First they must be widely viewed and accepted as legitimate. Second, there must be compliance with the most vital norms and ways to monitor it. And third, there must be some credible means of enforcing such norms if and when they are violated. If any one of these conditions has not been adequately satisfied, we will continue to face difficulties in promoting multilateral cooperation and limiting the resort to unilateralism.

Consistent with the Secretary-General's longstanding efforts for organizational reform, the Secretariat stands ready to assist ongoing efforts to improve the Committee's deliberative process. The Secretariat, for example, has reduced the number of reports to the Committee by consolidating certain reports that share similar themes or objectives. At the end of the day, the Committee will produce draft resolutions, all or virtually all of which will likely be adopted by the General Assembly. My hope is that all of us will be able to look back at our reports, our resolutions, and our debates and say proudly that they helped to serve as collective means to promote concrete progress in achieving the goals of disarmament and international security within the mandate of this Committee.

In closing, let me echo the views expressed by many heads of state and government during the General Assembly's general debate, in recognition of the important contributions of civil society in advancing virtually all the goals of the Charter. Whether the issue concerns disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control, or counter-terrorism -- each of these areas have benefited from constructive contributions from individuals and non-governmental organizations and I fully expect these contributions to continue. Let us keep both our doors and our minds open to receive such support in all our future work.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive session. Thank you.