United Nations A/56/267



General Assembly

Distr.: General 3 August 2001 English

Original: English/French/Russian/

Spanish

Fifty-sixth session
Item 75 of the provisional agenda*
Reduction of military budgets

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

Report of the Secretary-General**

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1-3	2
II.	Actions taken by the Secretariat	4–7	2
III.	Replies received from Governments	8–9	3
Annex			
	Views received from Governments in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assertes olution 54/43	mbly	173

^{**} Finalization of the present report was dependent on the receipt of a substantial number of submissions by Governments.



^{*} A/56/150

I. Introduction

- 1. The General Assembly, in its biennial resolution 54/43 of 1 December 1999, inter alia, called upon all Member States to report to the Secretary-General, annually, by 30 April, their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980 or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations.
- 2. By paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 54/43, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to promote international and regional symposia and training seminars to explain the purpose of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and to give relevant technical instructions.
- 3. By paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the analysis and the recommendations contained in his report (A/54/298) and with further suggestions to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure.

II. Actions taken by the Secretariat

- 4. On 22 February 2001, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to Member States requesting them to submit their reports no later than 30 April 2000. The replies received are reproduced in chapter III below. Any additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.
- 5. In his note verbale, the Secretary-General also requested Member States to communicate their views and suggestions pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 54/43. To date, the Secretary-General has received the common reply submitted by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. Any further replies will be issued as an addendum to the present report.
- 6. Pursuant to paragraph 6 (b) of resolution 54/43, and within existing resources, the Department for Disarmament Affairs organized an informal meeting of delegates on 10 October 2000 at United Nations Headquarters with a view to enhancing greater familiarity with and encouraging wider participation in the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures. At this meeting, presentations on the reporting instrument were made by the representatives of Argentina, Chile, Germany and Romania as well as an official of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.
- 7. The Department for Disarmament Affairs also facilitated and participated in a meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Organization of American States (OAS), held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. on 4 May 2001, which was devoted to arms transparency issues at the regional level. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, inter alia, made a presentation on the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures and also provided data regarding global and regional participation in this instrument.

III. Replies received from Governments

Explanatory note

- 8. To date, the Secretary-General has received reports from 55 Governments. Figures in the tables presented below have been reported by Governments, in most cases on the basis of the standardized instrument for international reporting of military expenditures. For analytical purposes, the information on military expenditures received has been computerized, with minor adjustments, to conform to standard statistical practices. In cases where reporting Governments using the standardized reporting instrument have not entered data, those columns have not been reproduced in the present report.
- 9. The originals of the replies from States are available through the Department for Disarmament Affairs at Headquarters.

Austria

[Original: English] [29 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Austria Fiscal year: 1999

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Austrian shillings

Austria

[Original: English] [29 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Austria Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Austrian shillings

Belarus

[Original: Russian] [29 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Belarus Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of Belarus rubles

Belgium

[Original: French] [14 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Belgium Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: tens of thousands of Belgian francs

Brazil

[Original: English] [17 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Brazil Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of reais

Bulgaria

[Original: English] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Bulgaria Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: leva

Burkina Faso

[Original: English] [12 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Burkina Faso Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

Canada

[Original: English] [24 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Canada Fiscal year: 1999-2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Canadian dollars

Canada

[Original: English] [24 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Canada Fiscal year: 2000-2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Canadian dollars

Chile

[Original: Spanish] [19 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Chile Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of pesos at 2001 prices

Costa Rica

[Original: English] [31 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Costa Rica Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of colones

Croatia

[Original: English] [9 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Croatia Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of kunas

Cyprus

[Original: English] [7 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Cyprus Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: tens of thousands of Cypriot pounds

Czech Republic

[Original: English] [7 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Czech Republic Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of Czech crowns

Denmark

[Original: English] [10 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Denmark Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Danish kroner, 2000 prices

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish] [23 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: El Salvador Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

The submission is a copy of the budget of the Branch of National Defence, which is based on the national format. This document, "Official Paper of El Salvador, No. 350, dated 25 January 2001", is available through the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

Estonia

[Original: English] [10 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Estonia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Estonian krooni, at current prices

Finland

[Original: English] [2 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Finland Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of markkaa (\$US=6.44 markkaa)

Finland

[Original: English] [2 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Finland Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of markkaa (\$US=6.44 markkaa)

France

[Original: French] [4 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: France Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of francs

Explanatory note on the presentation of the French military budget

The figures provided concern the French military budget for 2001, excluding pensions, using a unit of currency and nomenclature requested by the United Nations. The following comments are in order:

- (a) The "strategic forces" heading covers allocations for nuclear deterrence;
- (b) The budget for the *gendarmerie* was covered under the heading of "paramilitary forces";
- (c) The "military assistance" and "civil defence" headings are not applicable: the former, because the elements needed are not provided in unclassified budget documents, while the latter does not come under the Ministry of Defence;
- (d) Two types of figures are required to respond to part II of the United Nations questionnaire:
 - Questions 1, 2 and 3 concern the average civilian salary for the fiscal year under review, military assistance from abroad, the exhaustion of stocks of ammunition as well as sales of land, property, equipment or services. These figures are not available.
 - Questions 4 and 5 concern imports and exports of military equipment as well as the proposed methods for comparing French military expenditures with those of other countries. This information is classified.

Georgia

[Original: English] [16 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Georgia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of Georgian lari (\$US=2.07 lari)

Germany

[Original: English] [11 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Germany Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of deutsche mark

Greece

[Original: English] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Greece Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Greek drachmas

Hungary

[Original: English] [21 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Hungary Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of forint

Italy

[Original: English] [11 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Italy Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: billions of lire

Japan

[Original: English] [16 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Japan Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: 100 millions of yen

Jordan

[Original: English] [12 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Jordan Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of dinars

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian] [27 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Kazakhstan Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of tenge

Kiribati

[Original: English] [20 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Kiribati Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

Latvia

[Original: English] [24 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Latvia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of lats

Liechtenstein

[Original: English] [4 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Liechtenstein Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic/English]

[31 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Lebanon Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: Lebanese pounds

Lithuania

[Original: English] [24 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Lithuania Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

Luxembourg

[Original: French] [28 August 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Luxembourg Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of euros

Malta

[Original: English] [1 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Malta Fiscal year: 1999

National currency and unit of measure: Maltese lira

Malta

[Original: English] [1 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Malta Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: Maltese lira

Mexico

[Original: Spanish] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Mexico Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: peso; *= United States dollars

Monaco

[Original: French] [2 March 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Monaco Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

Nauru

[Original: English] [29 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Nauru Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

Nepal

[Original: English]
[4 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Nepal Fiscal year: 2000/2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Nepalese rupees

Netherlands

[Original: English] [2 August 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: The Netherlands Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of guilders

New Zealand

[Original: English] [8 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: New Zealand Fiscal year: 1 July 1999-30 June 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of New Zealand dollars

Peru

[Original: Spanish] [24 August 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Peru Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: tens of thousands of new soles

Philippines

[Original: English] [23 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Philippines Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: million of pesos

Poland

[Original: English] [16 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Poland Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of zlotys

Portugal

[Original: English] [25 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Portugal Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of escudos

Republic of Moldova

[Original: English] [6 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Republic of Moldova Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: leu

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian] [27 August 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Russian Federation Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of rubles

San Marino

[Original: English] [9 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: San Marino Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations would like to point out the fact that, given the characteristics of the San Marino armed forces, the Government of the Republic of San Marino deemed it inconvenient to fill out the questionnaire [entitled "Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures"] and preferred to send the attached sheet of information.

Gendarmerie	
Salaries	5 613 933 426
Missions and travels	40 709 265
Barracks furniture and fittings and miscellaneous	136 999 690
Material for the public order service	7 482 000
Maintenance and management of motor vehicles	208 050 599
Purchase of equipment	4 476 708
	6 011 651 688
Fortress Guard (Guardia di Rocca)	
Salaries	2 014 056 749
Barracks furniture and fittings	94 518 986
Expenditures related to the Artillery	22 178 800
Purchase of equipment	14 103 000
Purchase of equipment for the Artillery	1 500 000
	2 146 357 535
Superior Command of the Militias	
Duty allowances granted to the Guards of the Great and General Council	150 737 000
Duty allowances granted to the Artillery	39 264 000
Duty allowances granted to the Uniformed Militia	219 704 000
Salaries of the Military Band's Maestro	50 591 690
Cheques for the concert players	659 514 250
Expenditures related to field uniforms	47 426 670
Stocks, uniform repairing and miscellaneous regarding the Guards of the Great and General Council	43 747 500
Stocks, uniform repairing and miscellaneous regarding the Artillery	21 387 000
Ceremonies, printings and miscellaneous regarding the Superior Command	
of the Militias	68 354 580
Stocks, uniform repairing and miscellaneous regarding the Uniformed Militia	49 866 000
Expenditures related to the maintenance and repairing of musical instruments	
and miscellaneous regarding the Band	24 238 182
Maintenance and management of the Band's motor vehicles	2 496 227
Purchase of equipment for the Uniformed Militia	2 000 000
Purchase of equipment for the Guards of the Great and General Council	3 439 000
Purchase of equipment and of musical instruments for the Military Band	19 789 000
	1 402 645 099
Total for 2000	9 560 654 322

Slovakia

[Original: English] [26 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Slovakia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Slovak crowns

Slovenia

[Original: English] [5 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Slovenia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of tolars

Slovenia

[Original: English] [5 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Slovenia Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of tolars

Spain

[Original: Spanish] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Spain Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of pesetas

Spain

[Original: Spanish] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Spain Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of pesetas

Budgetary information

With a view to reducing the fiscal deficit, the General State Budgetary Act for 2001 pursues the austerity policy followed by the Government in 2000. The attainment of the fiscal deficit target fixed by the State authorities in the Budgetary Stability Programme, together with requirements related to the professionalization of the armed forces, entails a major budgetary effort by the Ministry of Defence for the financial year 2001.

In this context, the budgets include a resource allocation of 1,008,831 million pesetas for the Ministry of Defence, 4.5 per cent higher than the 2000 figure. An additional amount of 35,667 million pesetas has been approved for the Infrastructure and Equipment Department of the Ministry of Defence.

Expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the budget for 2001 has been reduced to 0.95 per cent compared to 0.97 per cent in 2000.

The budget for autonomous organizations attached to the Ministry of Defence amounts to 173,194 million pesetas. If this is included, the budget for the Ministry stands at 1,169,173 million pesetas, or 1.1 per cent of GDP.

The budget for 2001 remains at 4.88 per cent of the overall State budget.

The percentage distribution of the budget is as follows:

Central administration: 25.3 per cent Land forces: 39.2 per cent Naval forces: 17.2 per cent Air forces: 16.6 per cent Central command: 1.7 per cent

The breakdown of expenditure for fiscal 2000 and the defence budget for 2001 are annexed to this document.

Sweden

[Original: English] [10 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Sweden Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of kronor

Sweden

[Original: English] [10 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Sweden Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of kronor

Switzerland

[Original: English] [5 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Switzerland Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of Swiss francs

Thailand

[Original: English] [5 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Thailand Fiscal year: 2001

National currency and unit of measure: millions of bhat

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

[Original: English] [5 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

Turkey

[Original: English] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Turkey Fiscal year: 1999

National currency and unit of measure: millions of liras

Turkey

[Original: English] [30 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Turkey Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of liras

Ukraine

[Original: Russian] [3 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Ukraine Fiscal year: 1999

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of griven

Ukraine

[Original: Russian] [3 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Ukraine Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: thousands of griven

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English] [11 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Fiscal year: 1999

Northern Ireland

National currency and unit of measure: millions of pounds sterling

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English] [11 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Fiscal year: 2000 Northern Ireland

National currency and unit of measure: millions of pounds sterling

United States of America

[Original: English] [24 July 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: United States of America Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: millions of current United States dollars

Uruguay

[Original: English] [1 June 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Uruguay Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: Uruguayan peso

Uzbekistan

[Original: Russian] [24 April 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Uzbekistan Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure: sum

Vanuatu

[Original: English] [23 May 2001]

Instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures

(Actual outlays, current prices)

Country: Vanuatu Fiscal year: 2000

National currency and unit of measure:

(The unit of measure should not exceed one ten thousandth of the total military expenditures.)

"NIL" report.

Annex

Views received from Governments in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 54/43

Sweden (on behalf of the European Union)

[Original: English] [27 April 2001]

Common reply by the European Union to General Assembly resolution 54/43, "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures"

At the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Member States of the European Union supported the consensus on resolution 54/43 entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures". The European Union wishes to provide the following common reply to paragraph 9 of the resolution, which calls upon Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the analysis and recommendations contained in his report (A/54/298) and with further suggestions to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes in its content and structure.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the following common reply of the Member States of the European Union to resolution 54/43:

- 1. The European Union continues to attach high importance to the United Nations standardized reporting of military expenditures, as instituted through the adoption of resolution 35/142 B. Annual reporting on military expenditures under the United Nations standardized reporting instruments complements the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as instituted by General Assembly resolution 46/36 and is thus an additional important and concrete measure to enhance transparency in armaments and contribute to confidence-building and security among States.
- 2. The European Union encourages all countries, in particular those which have co-sponsored resolution 54/43, to submit information on their military expenditures for the last fiscal year under the standardized reporting system to the Secretary-General by 30 April 2001. In case a country has no information to provide, the European Union would encourage submission of a nil return. The European Union considers that nil returns also are an important contribution to enhancing transparency in the field of armaments.
- 3. Since its introduction in 1980, the resolution "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures" has been enjoying growing acceptance by States Members of the United Nations as witnessed by an increasing number of co-sponsors (47 in 1998, 54 in 1999) and its adoption by consensus. However, participation in the standardized reporting remains low. In 2000, reports were obtained from 35 Member States only. In our view, such a low

participation is a cause for concern and indicates that the request to report military expenditures continues to meet, in particular, practical obstacles.

- 4. The European Union believes that further efforts should be undertaken to elucidate the reasons for the limited response by Member States and to take appropriate action to facilitate wider participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures. The European Union, therefore, fully supports the requests made to the Secretary-General in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of resolution 54/53 to this effect, in particular to examine possibilities for enhancing complementarity among international and regional reporting systems, and to exchange related information with these bodies.
- 5. Furthermore, States Members of the United Nations should be urged to inform about possible problems with the reporting and their reasons for not submitting the required data, and to submit suggestions, so that appropriate improvements could be considered to render this instrument more effective and to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures.
- 6. The European Union welcomes the initiative by the Department for Disarmament Affairs to organize, in 2001 and 2002, regional seminars with a view to explaining the purpose and importance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations standardized reporting system on military expenditures, and to provide technical advice for countries which lack the capacity to fill in the United Nations matrix at the required level of disaggregation or need to adjust their information to the United Nations categories.