
Setting the Scene: Aggregation of Data in Annual reports

UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

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From Knowledge & Ideas to Action

KNOWLEDGE	Accurate information and insights on priority disarmament issues
IDEAS	New proposals and options to advance cooperation and address risks
DIALOGUE	Convene and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange
ADVICE	Policy expertise to States, regional and multilateral actors on arms control

Objectives: Transparency, confidence building & cooperation

*“Promoting **cooperation, transparency and responsible action** by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby **building confidence** among States Parties”*

Article 1, Arms Trade Treaty

Existing voluntary guidance

“The **number of items or the financial value** of the exported and imported conventional arms; and the **final importing or exporting States** of the conventional arms...represents a common understanding – not a Treaty obligation – of **what information States Parties should include as a minimum** when they report their authorized or actual exports and imports.

States Parties should consider providing this **information broken down by category of conventional arms** on which they are reporting, as well as **by country of origin or destination.**”

Question 22, FAQ-style guidance document

“States Parties are **strongly encouraged to break down the relevant data per country to or from which exports and imports were authorized** or effected.”

Question 23, FAQ-style guidance document

“For reasons of **consistency and continuity**, it is desirable that States Parties’ choices in this respect, once made, **remain stable** over time.”

Question 24, FAQ-style guidance document

Varying national practices

Recent trends indicate increased practices to aggregate data

Variation in information provided on:

- **Actual/authorized** transferred
- **Number/Value** of item transferred
- **Description** of item transferred (e.g. type)
- **Comments on the transfer** (e.g. nature of the transfer)

Dis/aggregation by:

- **Number of items**
- **Exporting/Importing States**
- **Categories (SALW)**

Additionally:

- **Confidential** reports
- **Sensitive** information
- **No information** provided
- **national categorization** of items may vary
- **Reporting format** vary

Key Challenges at National Level

Recordkeeping and Information management system

- Varied models of **centralized and decentralized data-set** and database
- Lack of **dedicated resources and capacity on information management**
- Lack of **access to comprehensive data-set** on type, number/volume, end users for each transfer
- Lack of **internal information verification and validation** means
- Inadequate **recordkeeping** modalities
- Challenges to **multi-stakeholder coordination** at the national level

Opportunities for further dialogue

Sharing good practices and lessons on national practices:

- **Type of disaggregated data** that is collected and managed?
- **Useful national procedures, databases & tools for data disaggregation?**
- **National coordination experiences that enable and/or hinder the collection of disaggregated data?**
- **National practices to de-sensitize / un-classify disaggregated data?**
- **How are disaggregated data are used domestically? What are the advantages? Example incentives to disaggregate data?**

Additional areas for sharing of practices:

- **Domestic practices on consistency in type of data collected and to be reported?**
- **Domestic data management needs & assistance for disaggregation?**
- **Data collection and management of import data including disaggregation?**
- **Disaggregated data on SALW categories?**
- **Data access, collection and management with industry / economic actors?**

Food-for-thought take-away points

Transparency & Confidence building: Reporting practices should include information that helps inform the implementation and realization of Treaty's transparency and confidence building objectives

Illustrative good practices include:

- For each transfer: Type, number, final exporting/importing country
- Even better: Provide description of item (as national categorization may vary), and the nature of transfer
- Practice matters: Consistency in information to be gathered and kept and reported, and to maintain consistency in reporting methods over time

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