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

Recent trends indicate increased practices to aggregate data.
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** 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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