



S-0074-0001-007-00022

Expanded Number **S-0074-0001-007-00022**

External ID

Title

**Disarmament 2002 - Department for Disarmament affairs**

<i>Date Created</i>	<i>Date Registered</i>	<i>Date Closed</i>
28/11/2006 at 2:32 PM	29/11/2006	

*Primary Contact*

*Home Location* S-0074-0001-007 (In Container)  
*Assignee* In Container 'S-0074-0001-007 (Monika Tkacova)' since 29/11/2006 at 1:48 P

*Priority*

*Local-container*

*Owner Location* Archives and Records Management Section

*Record Type* Archival Item

*Date Published*

*Document Details*  
*Container* S-0074-0001: Office for Disarmament Affairs

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

US  
DDA

20 August 2002

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your very supportive letter of 13 August 2002 on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

I greatly appreciate your kind words for the efforts made by the Secretariat to foster the success of the Register and I fully agree that this global arms transparency instrument deserves to be highlighted on its tenth year. In this regard, I have taken note of all your suggestions.

You will be pleased to know that the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with a number of interested Governments, is organizing a commemorative event to observe the tenth anniversary of the Register on 15 October at United Nations Headquarters. I shall also be issuing a statement to mark the tenth year.

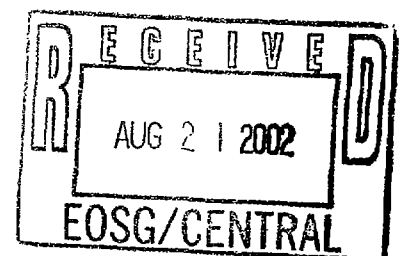
Meanwhile, the Secretariat continues to pursue a number of activities to promote the Register, including regional and subregional workshops as well as other outreach activities, such as publications.

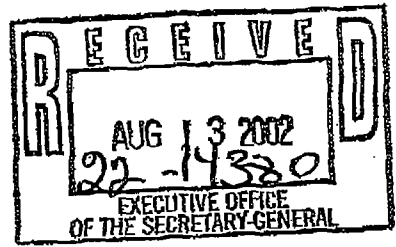
Please be assured that the Secretariat will continue with its intensive efforts to facilitate the progress of the Register. A specific activity that we would now wish to carry forward, within available resources, is to organize workshops for all the subregions where the participation in the Register has been either low or inconsistent. In this effort, the Secretariat will continue to count on the cooperation and assistance of interested Governments.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

-Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. John D. Negroponte  
Permanent Representative of  
the United States of America to the United Nations  
New York





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Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

On behalf of the United States, I congratulate the United Nations for ten years of continued success in implementing the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

In its tenth year, a record number of United Nations Member States participated in the Register. This is a testament not only to the Register, but also to the participating governments' commitment to building confidence and improving transparency to make the world more secure, and to the extraordinary efforts by the Secretariat to foster the Register's success.

The increased support for the Register this past year was due in large part to the Department of Disarmament Affairs' efforts to educate, facilitate and lobby for the support of additional states in promoting this successful global confidence and security building measure.

While close to 95 percent of the world's arms transfers are currently being reported to the United Nations via the Register, and that number continues to grow steadily, it is critical that we continue our efforts in order to reach the ultimate goal of 100 percent of global arms trades reported. I hope that the UN will continue its many efforts in this area, especially the holding of workshops and conferences to establish global awareness for the support of the Register. Future efforts should continue to focus on the countries of Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as individual nations that have been reluctant to participate.

His Excellency  
Mr. Kofi Annan,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York.

In this tenth anniversary year, it would be extremely beneficial for the UN to undertake activities marking the occasion that will also foster consistent participation in the Register. I would hope that you personally would find the opportunity to highlight the anniversary and announce further promotional initiatives in your comments to the General Assembly. Also, continued strong support from the Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs such as a letter to all Permanent Representatives in New York encouraging future participation and establishing a national point of contact for the Register would reinforce the United Nation's commitment to this effort.

The United States is committed to reaching the goal of 100 percent involvement and is prepared to work with you to achieve this goal. Transparency is essential to global security, and cooperation is essential for transparency. By continuing programs that build awareness, new records for participation in the Register can be set.

Sincerely,



John D. Negroponte