

Analysis of the National Reports Submitted by States to the First Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (July 2003)

In 2002, UNIDIR, the United Nations Development Programme and the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs initiated the project 'Capacity Development for Reporting to the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms' to help developing countries with their reporting obligations on implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Geneva-based Small Arms Survey was appointed as technical consultant to the project.

In the project's initial phase leading up to the First Biennial Meeting of States in 2003, the assistance package developed by the project proved to have a significant role in enhancing both quantitative and qualitative national reporting. Based on the positive feedback received from assisted countries and the funders, the project was expanded and extended for at least two additional years.

Since then, the project has analysed all of the national implementation reports submitted to date, which will help in the preparation for the 2005 Biennial Meeting and for the first Review Conference in 2006. The researchers have identified areas where the international community could act to enhance the capacity of states to implement and report on the Programme of Action. With its publication later in the year, the project's analysis will both increase transparency and help to identify areas for cooperation and assistance.

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In each issue of *Disarmament Forum*, UNIDIR Focus highlights one activity of the Institute, outlining the project's methodology, recent research developments or its outcomes. UNIDIR Focus also describes a new UNIDIR publication. You can find summaries and contact information for all of the Institute's present and past activities, as well as sample chapters of publications and ordering information, online at < www.unidir.org > .

NEW PUBLICATION

***The Security Council at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century:
To What Extent Is It Willing and Able to Maintain International Peace and Security?***

In the midst of numerous categorical—and often hasty—judgements about the Security Council's supposed irrelevance or obsolescence, as well as amid heated controversy surrounding the role of the Security Council with reference to Iraq, and a continued upsurge of concerns related to terrorism and to weapons of mass destruction, notably in the hands of non-state actors, the future of the Security Council remains high on the international agenda.

The author, an experienced practitioner of Security Council diplomacy, brings a personal and sobering perspective on the Council's performance in carrying out its 'primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security', entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations.

Unlike numerous existing works, which deal with the Security Council through the angle of one or a few specific international crises, Pascal Teixeira's focus is on the Council in itself, through the successive prisms of major international security issues since the end of the Cold War. In so doing, he provides a valuable contribution to explaining the day-to-day functioning of an institution often in the headlines, but whose numerous specificities and various practical modes of operation are all-too-little known outside the circle of experts and diplomats with direct experience of the Security Council.

***The Security Council at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century:
To What Extent Is It Willing and Able to Maintain International Peace and Security?***

Pascal Teixeira

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