

REFERENCE: ODA/2024-00020/MILEX.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution [77/33](#) entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”, adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2022.

By operative paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

“*Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving the broadest possible participation, to provide the Secretary-General, by 30 April annually, with a report on their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, one of the online reporting forms, including, if appropriate, a nil report or the “single figure” report on military expenditures or any other format developed in the context of similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

*Invites* Member States to supplement their reports with explanatory remarks regarding submitted data to explain or clarify the figures provided in the reporting forms, such as the total military expenditures as a share of gross domestic product, major changes from previous reports and any additional information reflecting their defence policy, military strategies and doctrines;

*Also invites* Member States to provide, with their annual report, information on their national points of contact.”

By operative paragraphs 7 (a) and (b), the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General:

“To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of their report on military expenditures;

To circulate annually a note verbale to Member States detailing which reports on military expenditures were submitted and are available online.”

By operative paragraphs 8 (a) and (b), the General Assembly encourages Member States:

“To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;

To continue to provide the Secretary-General with their views and suggestions on ways and means to improve the future functioning of and broadened participation in the standardized

reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure, as well as recommendations to facilitate its further development.”

Pursuant to this, UNODA stands ready to receive **national reports on military expenditures pertaining to the 2023 fiscal year by the deadline of 30 April 2024**.

Submissions to the UN MilEx instrument will be made publicly available via the annual report of the Secretary-General and via an interactive, online database (<https://milex.unoda.org>).

Governments are requested to use one of four reporting template options (standardized, simplified, single-figure and nil). Member States without any military expenditures are invited to submit a nil report. Nil reporting is important, as it allows for a truly global picture of trends in military spending, thus reinforcing the value of the UN Report on Military Expenditures as a confidence-building measure. It is up to each Member State to select the template that best suits its national accounting system and reflects the level of disaggregation of the national military budget.

Member States are encouraged to submit information via UNODA’s secure, new web-based reporting tool (<https://milex-reporting.unoda.org/en/reporting-tool>). Country-specific log-in details, including the username and password, remain the same as last year. Log-in details can be requested by Permanent Missions and focal points by contacting UNODA.

Member States unable to submit information through the web-based reporting tool are invited to send reports directly to UNODA via e-mail at [conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org). Reporting forms can be downloaded via UNODA’s webpage on military expenditures: (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/milex/forms>).

In line with the report of the 2013 Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, Member States with military space activities are encouraged to include in their UN MilEx submissions such military space expenditures. This information can be included in the explanatory remarks.

National views, as requested in paragraphs 8 (a) and (b), can be submitted under the appropriate tab of the webpage. These will be reproduced in the Annex to the Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly if limited to a maximum of 400 words.

In an effort to strengthen national capacity in reporting and enhance transparency, UNODA partnered with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to produce a “Practical Guide to State Participation in the UN Report on Military Expenditures”<sup>1</sup> This document provides step-by-step guidance on how to prepare a submission to UN MilEx, as well as concrete example submissions for the majority of UN Member States. The guide and compendium can be downloaded via SIPRI’s website (<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2022/other-publications/practical-guide-state-participation-un-report-military-expenditures>). Additional resources are available on UNODA’s website (<https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/milex/>).

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<sup>1</sup> This project was funded through the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR). Donors to UNSCAR include Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Member States requiring any assistance are invited to reach out directly to UNODA ([conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org)) or to Mr. Zihangu Fang ([zihangu.fang@un.org](mailto:zihangu.fang@un.org)).

The Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zihangu Fang', written in a cursive style.

12 February 2024