

**Opening Remarks**  
**By the Representative of the Republic of Indonesia**  
**At the “United Nations Regional Workshop**  
***On Transparency in Armaments***  
***For Southeast Asian Countries”***  
**Bali, 31 March – 1 April 2010**

Excellencies  
Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I am pleased to welcome you once again to Bali. I am delighted that you have accepted our invitation to participate in this Workshop. Your participation will help foster dialogue among government officials and international organizations in the region on the importance of transparency in armaments and how it can be served by the two arms transparency instruments – namely, the UN Register of Conventional Arms (the Register) and the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures.

We would like to thank the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for co-hosting this regional workshop. We also thank the sponsor of the event, the Governments of Japan, Sweden and Switzerland for their support, which has helped make this Workshop possible.

This is the second time that the Indonesian Government is privileged to host a discussion on this important issue. The first one was held on 14 February 2003 when we and the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA) co-hosted a “*Sub-regional Workshop on Transparency in Armaments*” with the support of the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan and The Netherlands.

Distinguished Participants,

In 1991, the UN General Assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority the Resolution on “Transparency in Armaments,” which requested the Secretary-General to establish, develop and maintain a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms. The General Assembly also called upon Member States to annually provide the Register data on exports and imports of conventional arms in the seven categories covered by the Register and invited them to include

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information on military holdings and procurements through national production and national policies.

The Register, as the only global transparency instrument on conventional arms transfers, plays an important role in the prevention of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms. Thus it enhances confidence, promotes stability and strengthens international peace and security. And if all UN member states consistently participated in the Register, there would be so much more transparency in military matters, including the global trade in conventional arms. And the fight against the illicit traffic in conventional arms would be so much more effective.

Although the Register and the Reporting Instrument are not in themselves arms control or arms regulation instruments, they do contribute a lot to global transparency, which brings about restraint in armaments. In that manner, they help minimize the risk of misunderstanding or miscalculation and facilitate bilateral and regional dialogue. They also build confidence and trust among states and encourage peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Hence, Indonesia has always supported the call on all UN Member States to report all international transfers of conventional arms to the Register. For our part, since 1993, we have never failed to submit an annual national report to the Register. We are now completing our national report for the fiscal year 2009.

Distinguished Participants,

In this workshop we the representatives of ASEAN countries will once again discuss the importance of the objectives, procedures and parameters of the transparency instruments. We will also obtain from one another valuable feedback and inputs on how to improve the long-term prospects of the two transparency instruments.

In this regard, Indonesia proposes that ASEAN countries continue to regularly conduct an exchange of views with regard to the implementation of the transparency instruments in the region. The ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) Blueprint clearly states that in order to strengthen confidence-building in our region, we have agreed to “share information among ASEAN Member States on submissions to the UN Register of Conventional Arms”.

Let me therefore emphasize that since the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures are important confidence-building measures, we should carry out cooperative efforts to ensure compliance with these two instruments at the global and regional levels. We should work for universal participation so that the Register as a global confidence-building measure will be effective.

Thank you.