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REFERENCE:

Subject: Report to the Human Rights Council on the impact of arms transfers on human rights

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council resolution 32/12 on "Impact of Arms Transfers on Human Rights".

The resolution requests the OHCHR "to prepare a report, in consultation with States, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders, on the impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session, in order to provide States and other relevant stakeholders with elements to assess the relationship between arms transfers and human rights law that may guide them to strengthen efforts to effectively protect human rights".

Accordingly, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if all Member States could provide information in response to the questions outlined in the attached questionnaire for the preparation of the report. Submissions may be limited to seven [7] pages and sent to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; Fax: +41 22 917 90 08; Email: registry@ohchr.org) by **3 February 2017**.

Please note that, unless requested otherwise, the information provided may be made available on the OHCHR website. Any enquiries may be made to Rachel Opie at ropie@ohchr.org, telephone: +41 22 917 9389.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

UNITED NATIONS - OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

22 December 2016



Questionnaire for Member States for the OHCHR Report

The following questionnaire is aimed at assisting Member States in providing information and inputs for the above mentioned report.

1. Please identify the ways that arms transfers impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Are there rights that are particularly affected? Are there groups of rights-holders which are particularly affected?
2. If your Government undertakes arms transfers, please indicate whether your Government assesses the impact that each arms transfer may have on the enjoyment of human rights. What considerations are taken into account when making these assessments, including national procedures and/or laws and international obligations and standards? On what information and/or sources of information does your Government base its assessments?
3. If your Government does not undertake arms transfers, what considerations should be taken into account by others when assessing the impact an arms transfer may have on human rights, including national procedures and/or laws and international obligations and standards? On what information and/or sources of information should such assessments be based?
4. If your Government undertakes arms transfers, has your Government in the past refused to authorise a proposed arms transfer or arms transfers on the basis that the arms transfer would impact on the enjoyment of human rights? If so, please identify the factors that were taken into consideration in making this decision, and the nature of the human rights that would have been impacted by such the proposed transfer?
5. If your Government undertakes arms transfers, has your Government in the past refused to authorise a proposed arms transfer or arms transfers on the grounds of the risk of the diversion of the arms?