The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 74/24 entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”, adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2019. This resolution relates to the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures (MilEx).

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 paragraph 7 (a), 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.

National annual report

The Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to receive the national reports pertaining to calendar year 2019, by 30 April 2020.

National reporting is done in a secure web-based environment. Reports can be submitted in all official UN languages.

Please request your country’s unique user account name and password through conventionalarms-unoda@un.org. Subsequently, your national report can be submitted through www.un.org/disarmament/milex, after 14 February 2020.

Only Permanent Missions or national points of contact on MilEx can request the password. A list of national points of contact is attached to this note.

Governments are encouraged to use one of four online reporting template options, depending on the complexity of their military budget:

- The standardized report
- The simplified report
- The single-figure report
- The nil report (for those Governments that last year did not have any military expenditures but are nevertheless committed to the principle of transparency on this issue).

Selecting the most appropriate form is a national decision.

National views as requested in paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) can also be submitted, under the appropriate tab of the web page, and 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 line with the Secretary-General’s decision to reduce the length of reports by 10 per cent so as to comply with the respective General Assembly resolutions on control and limitation of documentation.

Those Member States with military and national security space activities are encouraged to include in their reports such military space expenditure as well as other national security space activities.\(^1\)

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.

31 January 2020

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