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Open Source and Trade Data for Non-proliferation: Challenges and Opportunities

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This paper explores what more systematic exploitation of trade data can contribute to the state evaluation process. The paper begins by setting out a typology of trade data, which groups the data into five categories:

- Government Declared Data, which is prepared and submitted by States to an international authority for non-proliferation purposes.

- Government Recorded Data, which includes information collected by the state for its own purposes, and which is not routinely submitted to international authorities for non-proliferation purposes. It includes (some) export licensing data, customs data, and business registration information

- Business-held data, which includes information on a company's own products and customers, but also 'market intelligence'.

- Intelligence and Enforcement Derived Information, which can include information on specific procurement attempts, networks, or procurement requirements.

- Procurement Requirements Information, which can include information released by a program for the purpose of seeking goods or services.

Challenges and opportunities related to further exploitation of trade data sources in each category are then explored, as are factors related to accessibility (both in terms of mandates and more practical considerations), reliability (including presentation of a typology), completeness, and duplication in data.

Next, the paper explores how the IAEA can systematically collect, integrate and analyse the various sources of trade data given the considerations outlined above. In particular, this section focuses on how data in variable structures can be integrated into the state evaluation process.

In concluding, the paper will describe how the newly formed "Collaboration on Open Source and Trade Analysis for Non-proliferation" (COSTA-NP) is seeking to develop each of the categories of trade data.

The paper links to research objectives 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, and 2.4. of the IAEA research plan.

Country or International Organization

UK

Primary author: Mr STEWART, ian (King's College London)

Presenter: GILLARD, Nicholas (King's College London)

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