

STUDY GUIDE



GA1: DISEC

15-17
MAY
BAALMUN'26

BAALMUN'26 DISEC STUDY GUIDE

- **Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The Disarmament & International Security Committee (DISEC), or the First Committee of The United Nations General Assembly deals with great global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community, and seeks solutions to the defects in the international security regime. Political tensions, civil wars, or other periods of disagreement around the world are causing people, especially in developing countries, to seek solutions that will protect them and ensure their personal safety. This has led to the growth and expansion of the illicit arms trade, and recognising its danger is key to finding solutions to this particular case.

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1. Letters

a. Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Distinguished Guests,

As the Secretaries-General of BAALMUN'26, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 4th edition of BAALMUN. We are honoured to host you at our conference, which will take place between the 15th and 17th of May at our school.

We have worked tirelessly to organize a conference that offers unique opportunities and brings students together under the ideals of Model United Nations. Our conference aims to create an environment where delegates can engage in fruitful debates, develop diplomatic skills, and collaborate to address some of the most pressing global issues of our time. The academic team has carefully designed the committees and topics to reflect and uphold these ideals.

We would also like to highlight the hard work that our team has put in to provide you with the best possible MUN experience. Over the past months, the academic and organizing teams have worked tirelessly to ensure the quality of our conference. Their dedication and commitment have played a crucial role in making BAALMUN 2026 possible, and we are incredibly grateful for their efforts.

Lastly, we hope that you will enjoy our conference and that it will provide you with new knowledge and unforgettable memories. We wish you a wonderful time and look forward to welcoming you soon.

Best regards,

The BAALMUN'26 Secretariat

Letter From Under-Secretary General

Dear Secretariat, distinguished delegates and honourable guests,

It is a great honour for me to address you as the Under Secretary-General of this committee. My name is Dersu Yunus Taştan, and I am currently a 10th-grade student at Beşiktaş Atatürk Anatolian High School. This is my 4th Experience as an Under- Secretary General.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Secretary Generals Defne Mengi and Umran Büyükbayram and our Director Generals Melek Aksoy and Asya Yıldız for giving me the opportunity to serve in this committee. Most importantly, among the changes that have profoundly shaped my life, it has been invaluable to have my talent and dedication recognised and trusted by my new school's secretariat, where I moved following a change of city and institution. On behalf of both my school's MUN club and the delegates, I would like to express my gratitude for upholding the academy and organisation of this conference. Having witnessed firsthand the challenges you faced during the preparation of this conference, watching you tackle those hurdles and exercise your co-working skills was both deeply instructive and impressive.

I would also like to thank them for providing me with the opportunity to serve as Deputy Head of PR and to work alongside beloved Bejan Sarak throughout the conference.

Together with my Academic Assistant, Simge Armişen, we have organised this committee and guide for those who wish to gain insight and achieve mastery in committees like Disec - GA1 or the other variants of committees throughout your Model United Nations career. I am fully confident that while representing your assigned countries, you will find it both enjoyable and rewarding to discuss illegal arms trade and SALW, issues that crucially shape

our present and future. Should you have any questions or wish to reach out, please feel free to contact me via email, and I hope for a great conference for everyone

Candid regards,

Dersu Yunus Taştan

Under-Secretary General

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Letter from Academic Assistant

Dear Secretariat, esteemed Executive Team, and Honourable Participant,

I, Simge Armişen, as the academic assistant of this committee, would like to briefly welcome you all to our committee: GA-1: DISEC. It is a great pleasure for me to take part in this conference and I'm truly excited to be a part of this journey with you.

I would like to start by introducing myself to you first. I'm Simge Armişen, who is 16 years old and a 10th grade student in Küçükçekmece Anatolian High School and have been doing MUN's for over a year now. As a DISEC committee, we are going to focus on one of the significant matters, which is about strengthening international cooperation to combat illicit arm trades and light weapons, and try to find comprehensive solutions to this global matter. I believe you guys have the potential in you to find these and can combine ideas together to take actions upon this.

We, as your board members, worked on this committee by believing and aiming this as a goal by ensuring an exclusive and academic environment where you feel safe to debate and hope this committee will be the best experience of yours. We believe that you will be able to produce meaningful solutions through cooperation and diplomacy to achieve peace at the end of the day. Please do not hesitate to contact with me when you need assistance by contacting with: simge2905@gmail.com

I hope that BAALMUN'26 will be the best and unforgettable experience of yours. I look forward to meeting with each and every one of you.

Warm regards,

Simge Armişen

Academic Assistant

2. Introduction to the Committee

a. Mandate and Role of the Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee, also known as GA-1: DISEC, is a committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) which was established to provide countries a space to discuss important matters related to peace and security. It was established in 1945 by the UNGA to primarily focus on such topics as disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime to ensure a safe region among the member states.



This committee also considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations Charter; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

The mandate of the committee follows seven thematic clusters, such as nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, outer space disarmament aspects, conventional weapons, regional disarmament and security, other disarmament measures and international security, disarmament machinery. All of the 193 member states participated in the meetings of DISEC every year, with 3-4 sessions to discuss and analyse the important topics under this committee with these seven mandates.

For this agenda item, this committee will have a meeting to discuss finding ways to strengthen international cooperation to combat illicit arms trade and light weapons. So, coordinating together to work under this important matter is expected from delegates.

b. *Relationship with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*

DISEC requests significant managerial and action-oriented assistance from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to achieve solutions and generate additional opportunities for the status, and also specifies in its meetings how the objectives and obstacles have been affiliated through the time. UNODA supports multilateral efforts aimed at achieving the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international controls, and it is highly necessary that the companions should align in order to condemn and preclude the massacre which was done by Small Arms and Light Weapons.

3. Introduction of the Agenda Item: Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons

a. *The Scope of the Crisis and the Role of Domestic Regulations*

It is estimated that more than 500,000 people are killed each year with SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons). Violence and conflict fueled by illicitly trafficked Small Arms and Light Weapons impede economic development, good governance and human rights. Studies have shown that illicit trafficking of weapons affects almost every region of the world. One of the most significant approaches in the matter is The UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects provides a unique opportunity to develop an international strategy for addressing this serious threat. Most illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons began as legal weapons, and the diversion of civilian weapons is one source of supply. Consequently, domestic regulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which reduces the diversion of legal civilian weapons to illegal markets, is an essential part of this strategy. The value of proficient domestic regulations in reducing the misuse and proliferation of Small Arms has been affirmed by the United Nations in several different contexts, including the UN Security Council Resolution 1209 (1998), the Report of the Disarmament Commission considered at the General Assembly (1999), and the Report of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1997). These emphasise the importance of effective domestic legislation in reducing the diversion and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Virtually every illegal small arm began as a legal small arm, whether in the hands of the state, non-state actors, or civilians. Worldwide, there are as many Small Arms and Light Weapons in the hands of civilians as in the hands of states. It is estimated that more than 500,000 of these are stolen each year and enter illegal markets.

Indeed, in many regions of the world, diversion from civilian supplies is the principal source of illegal SALW. In many conflict and post-conflict contexts, military assault weapons dominate illegal markets. In other countries, such as South Africa and Brazil, most of the weapons recovered are handguns. A strategy to address illicit trafficking of “small arms” must therefore address “firearms” because of the interactions between state and civilian markets, particularly where pistols and revolvers are concerned.

In this regard the International Consultation on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, 22-23 June 2000, mandated by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), maintained that the OAU should focus on a single accepted definition of SALW that meets the real needs of Africa. Small arms and Light Weapons that are bought legally and then sold or given to a second owner are a problem in many countries, particularly in those which do not regulate resale or secondary markets, such as gun shows. Within the United States, “straw purchases” where a gun is purchased legally and sold illegally are the principal means used to move guns from legal to illegal markets. The same mechanisms are often used to supply Small Arms and Light Weapons to illegal markets in Canada and Mexico.

While there is limited empirical data on the extent of this problem globally, in Canada, more than half the handguns recovered in crime are illegally imported, and straw purchases in the United States are one of the principal means by which SALW enters the illegal market. Gun shows, which are largely unregulated, have also proved to be a major source of illicit guns to international illegal markets. Regulating secondary sales is therefore essential in order to reduce opportunities for diversion.

i. The Structural Impediments to Agreements

There are certain methods related to the illegal SALW trade that are difficult to prevent and have historically been either blocked or rendered ineffective, and which cannot be integrated into conventional solutions. European nations have been dominant for roughly the last 50 years, and Gross Domestic Product increased with the equal share of the trade exporters, and the Central Asian countries being importers, though their economic landscapes are shifting towards diversification in trade. In the 2021-2025 period, the European region's top exporters significantly influenced their national GDP with their high-technology defence manufacturing. France, Germany, Italy and Spain increased the exportation of the global shares of arms trade; thus, they gained a high-valued influence to dominate worldwide arms trade with the help and support of the global forefront, the United States of America. The USA's desire and objective to maintain its power in this regard and prevent key chains and transshipment engagement shifting from the attention and projective sphere of influence has neutralized within the UN resolutions that it once assisted with legal trade regulations. The illegal trade of SALW approached so dangerously that even the countries which maintained their GDP's 10% (France, Italy etc.) alarmed UN committees and the non-governmental organizations in order to prevent and reduce the Illicit trade and engage in Disarmament and non profiliation activities. The superior executives will work throughout the commission to operate a breakmove for the impediments of the exporter goals which causes corruption and massacre .

ii. The Socio-Economic Ramifications and Development Obstructions

The impact of the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons is not only limited to the battlefields and political conflicts, but it penetrates every funding of the social construct layers. National revenue intended and ordered for education, healthcare, social aids and

infrastructure is permittedly divided to combat insurgencies or crime fuelled by the illegal trade cooperated with unauthorized. In 2023 alone, violence linked to small arms cost the global economy roughly **\$22.6 billion**, exceeding global aid in the comprehensive obstructions. It also caused Infrastructural decay in regions which SALW profiliated, the areas frequently targeted. Bridges, power grids, and clinics are destroyed or looted, and repair efforts often blocked by the continued threat of armed groups.

b. Defining the discrepancy of Small Arms and Light Weapons

i. Technical Categorisation and Functional Distinctions

One of the primary reasons behind the global increase in the illegal small arms trade is the significant and crucial advancement in technological infrastructure and profiliation over the past decade, which has fundamentally transformed into production, distribution networks, and illegal procurement systems. Delegates must find a pathway by using both technological systems and traditional methodology in order to create a regulatory firewall for the local supplements.

c. **Arms Trade Treaty**

The Arms Trade Treaty is the first legally-binding instrument ever negotiated in the United Nations to establish common standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons. The development of common international standards for the trade of conventional arms has been a long time in the making, with origins in the League of Nations draft convention on the arms trade which was never adopted. However, while international law during the Cold War developed prohibitions on the transfer of chemical, biological and

nuclear weapons, no such progress was to be found with respect to conventional arms. After the Cold War, the devastating impact of widespread armed violence, particularly in situations of poverty and extreme inequality, came to the fore of the international community's attention. In the early to mid-1990s, to help counter the proliferation of conventional arms, several sets of guidelines or principles on arms transfers emerged among groups of countries, which included some of the largest arms exporters. The Permanent Five (P5) members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany were the top six leading suppliers of major conventional weapons during 1993-1997. Despite these early hindrances, the late 1990s and 2000s marked a decisive shift as civil society organizations and a group of Nobel prize winners, which started a movement in 1901 by Alfred Nobel, launched a global campaign for a legally binding treaty. This momentum led into the 2001 Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which, while not a treaty, established a vital political framework for international cooperation. The formal process and evaluation for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) finally gained traction in 2006 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolutions in the neutralized matter of SALW. After years of arduous negotiations regarding the scope of weapons and the specific criteria of the exploitative denial, the treaty was adopted by the Assembly in April 2013. Today, the challenge remains in universalizing the treaty and ensuring rigorous national implementation to close the gaps that illicit brokers continue to exploit.

4. Key Terminology

i. *End-User Certificate (EUC)*

An End-User Certificate is a document used in international transfers, including sales and arms, serving as the primary regulatory form to ensure transparency and accountability in global transactions of small arms and light weapons. EUCs force both exporting and importing nations conduct due diligence, thereby safeguarding the integrity of global security frameworks, within the expansion of consistent standardisation and the clarity of a universal, digitised EUC format will lead to administrative coherence.

ii. *Transshipment*

The drafting of a legally binding international arms trade treaty (ATT) represents a unique opportunity to define common state responsibilities for exercising control over the different stages of the arms transfer process and, as a result, prevent illicit and destabilising arms transfers. To date, discussions towards an ATT have largely focused on the responsibilities of states that export arms and little attention has been paid to responsibilities for controlling

transit and trans-shipment. Transit controls provide opportunities to strengthen state control at a stage when arms shipments are particularly vulnerable to diversion to illicit markets. Transit controls allow a state to monitor, verify, permit, deny or seize shipments of arms passing through their territory. This is potentially valuable to governments for several reasons. From the perspective of an ATT, probably the most important reason is the prevention of destabilizing arms transfers. In particular, transit controls reinforce state control over arms being transferred at points where they are vulnerable to diversion to undesirable end-users. Developed country regimes also enforce the controls to be implemented, enforced and designed at the national level. States use a variety of methods for controlling transit and transshipment, which can involve licensing authorities, customs, border, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, along with government ministries such as those tasked with defence or internal security. Control procedures tend to differ according to the types of arms, modes of transport used, final destinations and end-users. Differences between countries' transit controls, and in many cases the absence of such controls, are explained by national legal heritage and lack of resources and detailed common norms. In this meeting, our primary focus will be on the key points in arms trades, thus to make the process more clear and transmitted.

iii. *Stockpile Management*

Stockpile Management is the strategic, systematic process of storing, tracking and maintaining materials or arms to ensure operational continuity, quality control, and cost efficiency. The safe, efficient, and effective management of national stockpiles of conventional ammunition and explosives enhances military and police capabilities.¹ It is also an essential element of counter-proliferation and of ensuring the safety of explosives. Efficient logistic and operational processes improve stockpile security and optimize safety.

Conversely, poor stockpile management results in the deterioration of ammunition leading to an unsafe environment for local communities. Effective stockpile management also assists stockpile security, reducing illicit proliferation or theft and identifying losses quickly. In order to manage a stockpile properly, there must be a firm understanding of the principles of stockpile management, and of the nature of the ammunition contained in the stockpile. Stockpile management is an important national responsibility and is one of the most effective mechanisms for ensuring safe storage, security, and a reduction in the risks of illicit proliferation to conflict zones or organized crime. Ammunition is an expensive commodity. It could be regarded as a national 'insurance' policy in the event of conflict: it is hoped that it will never be needed, but lengthy production times and national security commitments mean that it must be procured in advance and available on demand.

iv. *Arms Proliferation*

Arms proliferation is the spread of weapons, and of weapons technology and expertise. While most commonly associated with Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Nuclear, chemical and biological, it also includes conventional weapons (tanks, aircraft) and Small Arms and Light Weapons.

5. Historical Background

The trade of small arms showed an important development throughout history by getting shaped with technological developments, political dynamics; and most importantly, global conflicts. Over time, all of these main causes have turned small arms from something controllable to widespread and unregulated networks among the diplomacy.

a. Early Formation and Development of Small Arm Trades

The early formation of small arm trades was started by European traders who were mostly active in Asian markets and African regions. European traders laid down the foundation of the international arms trade in the 16th and 17th Centuries when they started shipping arms to African, American, and to a lesser extent, Asian markets. This trade formed one arm of the "*triangular trade*" where Britain shipped goods such as firearms, cloth and beer to Africa, slaves and other goods were shipped to the Americas, and other goods then shipped back to Britain. The map below represents the trade from Britain, but most European nations with overseas territories operated similar patterns of trade.

The technological development in the 18th century, such as the Industrial Revolution, also affected the spread of small arms and light weapons. This revolution fastened manufacturing progresses which made it easier to produce many things; so the production of the weapons became easier to produce, made it easier to have access to them and reduced the prices of the weapon which is cheaper and faster to buy for people. Also the expansion contributed to the spread of national borders by improving the transportation systems and transporting light weapons to the distant regions. At the same time, the growing military demands of states

further increased the need for these weapons to be used in global conflicts because guns earned an importance and symbolised power and status for member states. All of these reasons created the main roots of the matter and for their later role, especially for getting more dangerous in the future by global conflicts.

b. Pre-Cold War: Preparation for Globalization of Arms Trade

The Pre-Cold War Era consisted of the First and Second World Wars due to the high amount of usage and trades by increasing demand for firearms, and the trade became divided between the block of allies. After initially remaining neutral in the conflict, United States President Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany in April 1917, but even before this formal declaration of war, American firms had been permitted to sell arms and ammunition to the Allied powers. The Allied Powers took full advantage of this as a way of bolstering their own production: "*American military exports jumped from \$40 million in 1914 to \$1.3 billion in 1916 and \$2.3 billion in the final nineteen months of war*", marking the beginnings of a significant role in the international weapons trade for American arms manufacturers. In the years leading up to the First World War, arms manufacturing companies were mostly privately owned, and apart from standard controls on trade, were generally uncontrolled by either their home government or any international controls. Below are examples of such arms manufacturers in the big six players in the First World War:

- Austria- Hungary
- Britain
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Russia

When the topic comes to the Second World War (1939-1945), those countries directly involved in trading formed two distinct groupings - the allied forces (United Kingdom, United States, France and their allies), and the Axis forces (Germany, Italy, Japan and their allies). However, there were also several countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Sweden and Switzerland) which remained politically neutral during the war and did not play an active role in the conflict, and neutrality was not always absolute; for example, Swiss arms manufacturers sold weapons to both sides of the conflict.

c. Importance of Cold War Period (1941-1991) for Small Arm Trades

All of the things that were mentioned before were for preparation and ground for a global conflict which affected diplomacy in many ways: *The Cold War*. This war was basically a period of international geopolitical rivalry between the United States (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR) and their respective allies, the capitalist Western bloc and communist Eastern bloc. Many reforms and decisions that were taken during this important period shaped the improvement of illicit trades and that is the topic we are going to focus on in this part.

During the Cold-War period, the United States and the Soviet Union became the main exporters of arms , which you will see as a table in the next pages. Given that these two States were the major players during the Cold War, both were exporting arms to their respective allies in several proxy conflicts, from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Meanwhile, top importers of arms were more changeable over the period: China, the United States, former West Germany, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Iraq and India all occupied the top two positions in different decades. The reasons for these changes in imports vary but could point to enhanced security concerns or conflict. The table that you are about to see right now comes from the security concerns or conflict and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

data which covers all major conventional arms (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile launchers), as well as small arms and light weapons. Thus, within these figures firearms (small arms) will account for a proportion of the total figure, but not the whole.

Decade	Importers		Exporters	
	Country	Value \$bn	Country	Value \$bn
1950s	China	27.7	United States	68.7
	United States	12.3	Soviet Union	67.1
	France	10.6	United Kingdom	41.8
	Poland	9.4	Czechoslovakia	6.6
	Canada	8.5	France	4.2
	Germany (FRG)	7.9	Canada	2.0
	Czechoslovakia	6.8	Italy	1.2
	Soviet Union	6.4	Sweden	0.9
	Netherlands	5.9	China	0.8
	Belgium	5.5	Netherlands	0.7
1960s	Germany (FRG)	23.6	Soviet Union	88.6
	Egypt	10.4	United States	86.5
	India	10.0	United Kingdom	15.3
	Poland	9.6	France	12.7
	East Germany (GDR)	8.6	Germany (FRG)	4.0
	United Kingdom	7.0	Czechoslovakia	3.7
	Czechoslovakia	6.7	Switzerland	3.4
	Japan	6.6	China	3.2
	Canada	6.5	Italy	2.4
	Italy	5.4	Poland	1.8
1970s	Iran	28.7	Soviet Union	136.5
	Libya	18.0	United States	125.9
	Syria	15.3	France	24.7
	India	14.9	United Kingdom	20.9
	Germany (FRG)	13.4	Germany (FRG)	13.6
	Israel	13.4	China	7.2
	Egypt	12.7	Czechoslovakia	6.9
	Iraq	10.7	Italy	5.2
	Japan	10.1	Poland	2.8
	Poland	9.8	Canada	2.0
1980s	Iraq	30.1	Soviet Union	146.9
	India	29.9	United States	122.1
	Japan	17.7	France	30.9
	Saudi Arabia	16.1	United Kingdom	25.3
	Syria	15.4	Germany (FRG)	16.5
	Egypt	12.6	China	14.9
	Libya	12.5	Czechoslovakia	10.7
	Soviet Union	10.6	Italy	9.5
	South Korea	8.9	Netherlands	5.2
	Netherlands	8.6	Switzerland	3.9

Later on, another important improvement happened during this period; the countries started to inter-industry cooperation instead of intergovernmental agreements. Defence companies started to show up in the transfer of technology, technical data and transforming arms manufacturing into a transnational process; which led to the production of the same weapons

in multiple countries with complicated regulation in control mechanisms. Possibly the most ubiquitous firearm of recent years is the AK-47 at around 75 million.

i. Marshall Plan:

Marshall Plan is a significant topic to address when the topic comes to its effect on supply chains. This plan aimed to build the democratic and economic systems of Europe and to counter perceived threats to the European balance of power, such as communist parties seizing control. The plan also stated that European prosperity was contingent upon German economic recovery.



This may seem like an unimportant plan but it affected the illicit trade of small arms by improving manufacturing which strengthened the defence industry. It increased the risk of infiltration

to the black markets, which makes it harder to control the illicit acts. Also it also showed its effects on the globalization of supply chains, which means it can be also used for smuggling. Lastly, and most importantly; it increased the tension between capitalist and the communist bloc by strengthening the capitalist side, which led to the development of the illicit arm trades and caused an economic rivalry over time. All of these reasons caused many small arm trades in Africa, Middle East and Latin America regions and made the matter spread worldwide and caused new matters.

ii. Warsaw Pact:

The last thing we need to mention is the Warsaw Pact in order to understand and address the situation with the militarization of countries who supported the Warsaw Pact that time. Warsaw Pact, formally Treaty of Friendship or also known as Cooperation and Mutual Assistance



(TFCMA), was a collective defense treaty signed in Warsaw, Poland, between the Soviet Union and seven other Eastern Bloc socialist republics in Central and Eastern Europe in May 1955, during the Cold War. The Warsaw Pact was the military complement to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the economic organization for the Eastern Bloc states and was directly dominated by the Soviet Union.

The Warsaw Pact played a significant role for the distribution of the small arms during the Cold War period by supplying weapons to the allied regions and states under the Soviet influence. Large quantities and standard weapons were circulated across multiple regions through both military support and deputy conflicts, which made it easier to spread it worldwide to various regions. But the non-state actors' involvement was limited for this spread, so many of these arms were transferred and diverted into illicit markets.

Many of the global conflicts, regulations, decisions, technological improvements and interest of the countries created an atmosphere for the illicit usage of small arms and small weapons. Each stage and period contributed to the widespread usage of these weapons, from Industrial Revolution to World Wars; from World Wars to Cold War. These developments not only increased accessibility to SALW, but also weakened regulatory control, caused the lack of accountability, and made it a difficulty for international security. Understanding and taking

lessons of the background and history is essential to work on the main grounds of the matter. If this situation still continues, that's because people didn't take any lessons from it at that time. That's why be the one who takes lessons and understands the history to guarantee your presence and future to make that significant change.

6. Major Parties Involved

Many member states have affected the development of the illicit arms trade with their policy, diplomatic point of view, and their interest in showing a strong stance and power to the world. These caused the improvement to be widespread even more, which made the matter more dangerous day by day. We are going to take a close look at those member states that affected it with their past events, reasons and decisions.

- **United States of America**

The United States of America has been an important factor, especially after the declaration of the Cold War and its reforms, such as the Marshall Plan, due to being the largest producer and exporter of small arms and light weapons, playing a significant role in the black market. The widespread usage of illicit weapons happened because of the actions they took in the past, which made it easier to produce and increased accessibility to those light weapons. Later on, the United States Government has taken the position that illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons poses the greatest threat to regional security in less-developed areas of the world undergoing civil strife. Thus, the United States believes that combating the illicit weapons trade should be the focal point of international efforts. U.S. diplomacy has been directed to achieving that outcome. Illicit trafficking includes illegal sales to insurgent groups and criminal organizations, illegal diversion of legitimate sales or transfers, and black market sales in contravention of embargoes or national laws. The re-circulation of small arms and light weapons from one conflict to another, and illegal domestic manufacturing of these items, are also considered elements of illicit trafficking.

- **Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation, which was a part of the Soviet Union before its division, appeared during the Cold War era by being the opposite side of the capitalist Western bloc, especially taking some actions across the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) such as signing the Warsaw Pact on 14th of May, 1955. In 1988, the deputy minister of civil aviation said that each year routine security checks at airports produced ‘hundreds’ of cases of smuggling of firearms and other weapons (usually hand-grenades).⁹ However, it seems clear that the number of cases and the volume of unauthorized weapons in circulation are higher than before. The possession of firearms is regulated but not prohibited in Russia. According to Russia’s national submission to the international study on firearms regulation organized by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, there are estimated to be 3.2 million gun-owners in Russia. In terms of the international dimension of the illicit arms trade, the indicators available consist of customs or border security service interceptions of shipments either entering or leaving Russia. Press reports of seizures of weapon shipments entering and leaving Russia have been frequent in recent years. In conditions where Russia’s external borders are still ‘porous’ (that is, there are no physical checks at all points of entry and exit) and cooperation within the framework of the CIS remains underdeveloped, it is likely that weapons can still move relatively freely within the post-Soviet space. It is therefore also likely that the pattern of illicit transfers will closely follow the demand generated by the various ongoing or latent post-Soviet conflicts. By extension, the primary mechanism for limiting the flow of arms will be successful conflict resolution

- People’s Republic of China

The People's Republic of China, or China as a short name, has been one of the main actors for the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons by affecting it in many ways. China exports all types of new and surplus SALW, as defined by the UN Panel of Experts on SALW.

The SALW that China exports are largely based on copies of SALW designed in other states. A significant number of Chinese SALW have either been copied without the express permission of the original producer or production has continued after permission to produce under licence has expired.¹⁶⁵ Of a sample of 24 Chinese SALW, 17 are cases of unlicensed production. In three cases China has granted a licence for production to another country. SIPRI ranked China as the 5th largest exporter of major conventional arms in 2008–12, accounting for 5 percent of the volume of international transfers.¹⁸² SIPRI arms transfer data includes MANPADS and guided anti-tank weapons that fall within accepted definitions of light weapons, but no other SALW. Its exports are primarily directed toward developing regions such as Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The country maintains national regulations and institutions to control arms transfers; however, limited transparency and restricted access to data have raised concerns regarding accountability.

- France

France plays a significant role in combating illicit arm trades through a combination of strict domestic controls, international initiatives, and diplomatic action, particularly focusing on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in conflict zones. France was determined to attend some of the activities and actions regarding this topic such as ATT, The Register of Conventional Arms, the Wassenaar Arrangement, The International Tracing Instrument to show their perspective about it. France reports every year on its exports, imports, military expenditures and procurements linked to major armaments in the framework of these instruments. The data are also available in the annual report on arms export transmitted to the Parliament which is easy to ensure transparency and accountability. France also cooperates with Germany to stop illegal arms trade in the Western Balkans. At the initiative of Germany and France, the Heads of Government of eight EU and six Western

Balkan countries agreed at a summit held in London in July 2018 on a roadmap for comprehensive small-arms control by 2024. The aim of the plan is to curb illegal flows of weapons and ammunition in the region and to bring the high numbers of arms from the time of the wars leading to the break-up of former Yugoslavia under control.

- United Kingdom

The UK actively combats illicit arms trafficking through international partnerships, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), while simultaneously facing criticism for lax broker regulations and licensing exports to countries with poor human rights records. It has set up a committee mandated to combat illicit trafficking, pursue a 'responsible and transparent' policy on legal transfers, and promote the removal and destruction of weapons which works towards securing agreements with the European Union (EU) and Organisation for Security Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and has pledged its support for the UN's 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms. The UK has pledged its support for governments and civil society organisations in affected regions in order to build political commitment and effective controls. The UK has said it will support the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative to help countries develop their own weapons collection, management and destruction programmes, by providing UK experts in this area. So, generally the UK plays an important role in addressing illicit arm trades among the regions and regulating mechanisms.

- Germany

Germany has a dual role in this matter, it acts like a proactive leader for international cooperations to combat illicit arm trades but also a destination that other member states prefer to use for transferring illicit weapons. According to the UNDP's official news, Germany

donated an additional 250,000 euros to prevent illicit arm trades. An additional 250,000 euros will ensure the rollout of training for 400 BiH Border Police officers, procurement of specialized arms detection equipment, as well as for the strengthening of communication among institutions involved in suppressing illicit arms' trafficking, at the state and lower levels. With this agreement, the total continuing support of FR Germany to strengthen BiH Border Police and other agencies to combat illicit arms' trafficking since 2017 amounts to 800,000 Euro. All police officers patrolling the BiH border (ca. 1,500) will have received training on detection of illicit arms, ammunition and explosives by the end of 2018. Training will be conducted using the most sophisticated equipment for detection donated through CIAT, the value of which is 346,000 Euro. The CIAT Project also supports the work of the Border Police in six communities identified as the most vulnerable to illicit arms' trafficking. But Germany also serves as a destination and transit country for smuggled weapons. Handguns and converted firearms are the most frequently used types of weapons in violent crimes. Gas guns are the most commonly seized firearms at customs points. The Western Balkans are the primary source of arms, ammunition, and explosives trafficked into Germany. Customs have recorded an increase in the number of weapons, ammunition, and explosives seized. The illicit trade in firearms in Germany involves a diverse range of actors, including some criminal gangs and organized smuggling networks. Firearms and explosives are mainly brought into Germany by land in small shipments to avoid detection by law enforcement. Additionally, firearms are frequently stolen from private firearm owners, retailers, law enforcement, and armed services. The dark web has also become a significant means of arms trafficking. Germany has been an example of the investments and actions to stop this matter by cooperating with other nations such as France; but also becoming a threat to transfer illegal weapons due to its geopolitical location. It makes Germany one of the more complicated policies.

- Mexico

Most of the illegal trades are transferred through Mexico, which makes it a major destination for illicit firearms. Mexico faces a great problem with the illegal entry of roughly half a million weapons annually through its northern border. Most of the weapons end up in the hands of criminal groups, inflicting untold suffering on the population. Combating diversion and illicit arms trafficking is a priority that Mexican foreign policy addresses in various international forums, most notably the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The treaty has helped Mexico to visualize and raise awareness about challenges and consequences of diversion and illicit trafficking of conventional weapons, promote standards for responsible international arms trade, and take advantage of its provisions on international cooperation to exchange information and consult on best practices in an effort to prevent and combat these illicit trafficking cases. In this regard, Mexico's general evaluation of the treaty is positive, although it recognizes the challenges the treaty faces and is therefore involved actively and purposefully in improving the treaty's operational processes. Between 2011 and 2016, over 70% of the 106,000 guns used in violent crimes in Mexico originated in the U.S. Those 160,000 guns represent a small fraction of the total number of weapons crossing the border from the U.S. into Mexico. In 2019, around 28,465 weapons, mostly handguns, were legally sold to Mexico. Yet, it is estimated that between 2010 and 2012, nearly 213,000 legally purchased firearms in the U.S. were illegally smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border. These 213,000 firearms represented 2.2% of arms sales in the U.S. during that time, valued at around \$200 million.

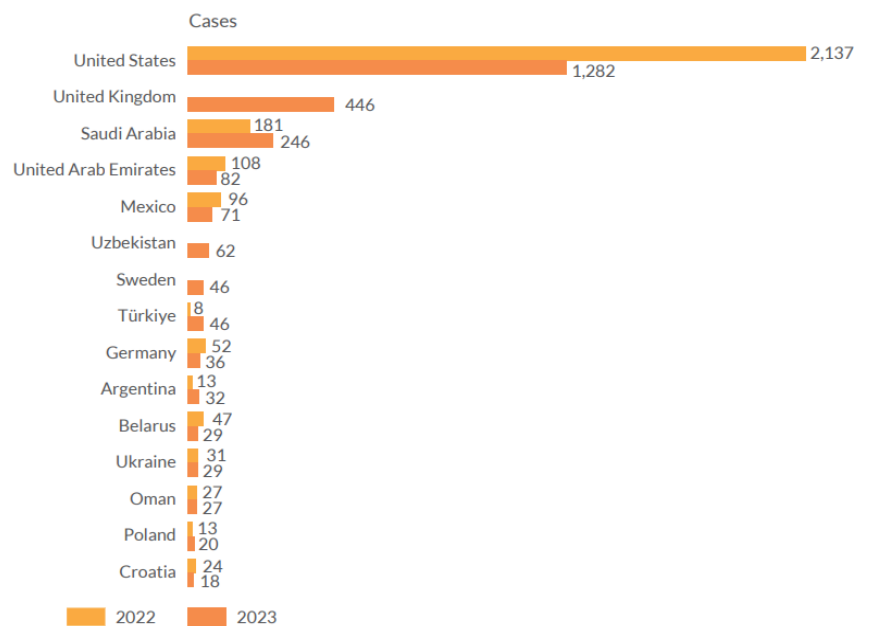
U.S.-sourced guns are not only contributing to lethal crime and political instability in Mexico, but also in Central America. From 2014 to 2016, 49% of guns used in the commission of a crime seized in El Salvador, and 45% seized in Honduras, were originally purchased in the

U.S. This supply chain leads to the displacement of Central Americans fleeing violence in their home countries. The illicit arms that are transferred to the regions are mostly preferred by cartels who do illegal crimes in their region.

Many countries carry an important role for the development of this significant matter. The Middle East and North Africa get affected very easily due to their lack of security and mechanisms while Western regions take part in the spread of illicit arm trades. Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq are some of the other examples that are affected by this. Here is a final table to understand the effects of the member states regarding this agenda by showing their reported numbers of weapon cases.

Figure 3: Top 15 reporting countries by number of weapon cases

Figure 3 presents the 15 WCO Members that reported the most weapon cases in 2023. It provides a comparative analysis for these Member countries for the years 2022 and 2023. It illustrates changes in the number of reported cases, highlighting which countries have experienced an increase or decrease in the reported cases over the two years.



7. United Nations (UN) Resolutions

The United Nations also recognized the importance of this significant matter and had multiple meetings to solve and analyze this deeply. Later on, the decisions they took in these meetings were officially shared with the public. Not only the United Nations General Assembly, but this topic was also addressed in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to control the usage of illicit arm trades. Also, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) focuses the international cooperation part with the member states regarding the agenda. We are going to mention some of them in this part with its articles. It is highly encouraged by the Committee Superiors that the delegates should deeply investigate the United Nations Resolutions, thus they can achieve knowledge mastery upon the matter.

a. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions

i.A/RES/80/36

This resolution paper works upon the assistance to states for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them regarding this matter. Here are some of the clauses this resolution paper mentions to work upon the agenda:

- *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;
- *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;
- *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light

weapons and in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

- Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;
- Invites the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them; 9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to cons.

ii.A/RES/80/38

UNGA focuses on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in this resolution document by mentioning some solution ideas such as;

- Underlines the fact that the issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects requires concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and that their uncontrolled proliferation in many regions of the world has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and poses a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels;
- Emphasizes the need for States to redouble national efforts to provide for the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by Governments to prevent, combat and eradicate the diversion of those weapons;

- Encourages States to take into account recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to strengthen normative frameworks, where needed, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons;

b. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Resolutions

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is one of the General Assembly committees which focuses on the trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption.

The UNODC resolution paper mentions the importance of international cooperation against illicit manufacturing and arms trade by holding some meetings regarding this topic. Here is the resolution paper of this committee:

i. Resolution 10/2

This resolution paper consists of strengthening international cooperation against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, with some clauses such as;

- Calls upon States to develop or strengthen their national capacity for the collection and analysis of data on illicit trafficking in firearms, with a view to identifying trends and patterns, fostering the exchange of information and enabling the global monitoring of progress on indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and invites States parties to participate in and contribute to the upcoming data-collection

cycle of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime by providing quantitative and qualitative data and information;

- Encourages States parties to provide one another with the broadest possible cooperation in tracing firearms and in investigating and prosecuting their illicit manufacturing and trafficking, including, where appropriate, when related to terrorism and other crimes, such as urban crime committed by gangs, by responding in a timely and effective manner to international cooperation requests relating to tracing and criminal investigations and, in this regard, to consider making use of tracing systems or facilitation mechanisms such as, as appropriate, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System, among others;
- Invites, where appropriate, international and regional organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and civil society to strengthen their cooperation and work with States parties to the Firearms Protocol in order to achieve its full implementation and raise awareness of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition;

c. United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions

UNSC has a large number of documents when it comes to the resolutions regarding this important matter. The UNSC gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. This committee recognises this as a threat to the peace, and that's why it organised some meetings on this matter to decrease the amount of illicit arms trade by using its authority. Here are some of the resolution documents that the UNSC shared with the public related to this agenda:

i.S/RES/2370 (2017)

This resolution paper which was prepared by UNSC mostly focuses on the legal parts of the topic and mostly recommends member states to take some actions regarding the topic with the help of legal frameworks as you will realise when you read it.

- Recognizes the need for Member States to undertake appropriate measures consistent with international law to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, in particular to terrorists, including by enhancing, where appropriate and consistent with their domestic legal frameworks, national systems for collection and analysis of detailed data on illicit trafficking of such weapons to terrorists, and putting in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production, export, import, brokering, transit or retransfer of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction, taking into consideration the “Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” in order to prevent the illicit trafficking to terrorists of such weapons;
- Emphasizes the importance of Member States taking appropriate measures, at the national, regional and international levels, in accordance with international law, and consistent with their domestic legal framework, to prevent the illicit trafficking of weapons to terrorists in conflict areas, and to prevent, within this context, looting or acquiring small arms and light weapons from national stockpiles by terrorists, and stresses in this regard on the importance of assisting States in those regions to enable them to monitor and control stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring them;

- Stresses the importance of international cooperation to prevent and eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, and encourages Member States in this regard to enhance in particular their judicial and law enforcement cooperation, consistent with their international obligations and domestic legal framework;

ii.S/RES/2220 (2015)

S/RES/2220 mentions that strengthening regional and international cooperation is essential to work on the topic, by also adding its threats to the civilians.

- Welcomes efforts made by Member States, regional and subregional organizations in addressing the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and encourages the establishment or strengthening, where appropriate, of subregional and regional cooperation, coordination and information sharing mechanisms, in particular, transborder customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing, with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons;
- Reiterates that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel conflict and have devastating impact on the protection of civilians, reiterates its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, and S/RES/2220 (2015) 15-08130 5/9 stresses the need for parties to take all required measures to avoid civilian casualties, respect and protect the civilian population;

iii.S/RES/2117 (2013)

This document, which is the oldest resolution paper from the UNSC on this topic, was one of the first resolution papers the UNSC worked on. This paper includes the importance of coordination and the establishment of new mechanisms to decrease the amount of illicit arms trade.

- Welcomes efforts made by Member States, regional and subregional organizations in addressing the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and encourages the establishment or strengthening, where appropriate, of subregional and regional cooperation, coordination and information sharing mechanisms, in particular, transborder customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing, with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons;
- Reminds Member States of their obligation to fully and effectively comply with Council-mandated arms embargoes and to take appropriate measures, including all legal and administrative means against any activity that violates such arms embargoes, and including, in accordance with relevant Council resolutions, through cooperating with all relevant United Nations entities; by making available to relevant sanctions committees all pertinent information on any alleged violations of arms embargoes; by acting on credible information to prevent the supply, sale, transfer or export of small arms and light weapons in contravention of Council Mandated arms embargoes; by facilitating unhindered access by relevant Council Mandated personnel in accordance with Council mandates; and by applying relevant international standards such as the International Tracing Instrument;

All of these resolution papers that were mentioned in this part focuses on many different parts with various points of views to analyze the situation deeply and fasten the process of this

threat. You generally saw the importance of regional and international cooperation, strengthening regulations for law enforcements and its effect on civilian security. These documents will be an example for you to understand the actions which were taken by the UN and guide you in creating your own perspectives and ideas to strengthen international cooperation, decrease illicit arm trades and balance it with law enforcement. That's why considering the UN resolution part as an important section is needed.

8. Possible Solutions

If you made it this far to come to this part, it means you finished most of the study guide and reading our last recommendations which is important for the flow of the committee. You may have realised that there were many important things to mention to analyze the development of the illicit arms trade because it's easy for it to get triggered from many other factors. To cooperate on this agenda, we have some expectations and recommendations to give.

Delegates are expected to conduct research of their policy to develop comprehensive and realistic solutions to combat the illicit arms trade by addressing its main root and consequences.

And most importantly, the other thing that is expected is to coordinate with each other to strengthen the international cooperation between member states. This agenda item mostly focuses on strengthening international cooperation because the interests of the countries and many global conflicts, such as the Cold War, affected international cooperation in many ways and improved illicit arms trade, which is why countries coordinate together in a simulation like this to stop this global matter to achieve peace. Drawing lessons from historical precedents is essential for fostering delegate collaboration. Simultaneously, by utilising existing arms trade treaties as a foundation, delegates are expected to both reinforce these mechanisms and propose a more sophisticated and comprehensive new treaty. Since the procedural framework allows delegates to examine specific sections of existing United Nations resolutions to gain both inspiration and technical knowledge for their own drafts, it is highly recommended that the committee secretariat facilitates and encourages this practice.

9. Questions to be Addressed (QTBA)

- 1. How can the United Nations promote the global adoption of advanced marking and tracking technologies to identify the point of diversion during the transshipment process?**
- 2. What measures should be taken to ensure that international arms transfer decisions strictly adhere to the humanitarian and fair standards set by the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)?**
- 3. How can we attach and augment government organisations and projects into the UN programmes which take part in the mitigation of SALW?**
- 4. How can we use and affiliate with the other United Nations Committees (UNSC, UNODC, UNGA)?**
- 5. How can obstacles prevent United Nations members from reaching a common ground on regulations and producing international law agreements be overcome?**
- 6. How can neighbouring countries strengthen border security cooperation without compromising national sovereignty, especially in regions with porous borders?**
- 7. How can emerging technologies, such as blockchain for record keeping or advanced marking, be integrated into the International Tracing Instrument to reduce the diversion of legal stockpiles?**

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