



Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Montessori Model United Nations Conference.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at MMUN 2016 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MMUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

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Disarmament and International Security

General Assembly First Committee

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; 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 Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva- based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms

Topic Background

On 24-25 April 2014, the President of the General Assembly hosted a thematic debate on “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies.” At the event, the United Nations recognized that “it is impossible to achieve sustainable development in the context of violence, threats to the rule of law from criminal enterprises, fragility and armed conflict.” Peace is required for development, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda must address the underlying causes of instability, conflict, and violence around the world before development can take place. And one of the main root causes of instability, conflict and violence is the illicit trafficking of small arms.

Small arms and light weapons fuel armed conflict around the world and prevent development. The global market for small arms is reportedly more than US \$100 billion, with an estimated 10-20% of that figure being comprised of illicit sales. Although the General Assembly adopted the landmark Arms Trade Treaty in 2013, illicit arms trafficking still continues. If the use of small arms cannot be curbed, then sustainable development and peace will not be achieved.

The illegal small arms trade is a problem that impacts almost every country in the world; developing and developed countries alike face this threat as the market for illicit arms is very large. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs explains the problem as “a worldwide scourge.”¹ The illegal weapons trade exists in neighborhoods that are terrorized by organized crime, as well as in civil wars where soldiers attack civilians and peacekeepers. Drug lords mark their territory and show that they’re in charge when they kill law enforcement or those who interfere with their illegal business.

Illegally obtained small arms are a major worldwide issue because they are lightweight and cheap. They are very easy to transport, conceal and handle; they make conflicts more lethal, and create insecurity that results in a cycle of demand for more weapons as both sides continue arming themselves.

Different regions of the world experience different effects of the illicit arms trade:

- In **Africa**, the illegal small arms trade is a major concern for developing nations’ governments. In Somalia, Ethiopian truck convoys deliver illegally obtained weapons, violating the UN embargo. Liberia has transported weapons across the border into Sierra Leone, supplying the Revolutionary United Front, a rebel group that fought and lost an 11-year civil war.²
- In **Latin America**, controlling large stockpiles of weapons is a major concern. In 2007, Venezuela purchased 100,000 AK-103 39mm assault rifles from Russia to replace weapons purchased in the 1950s from Belgium. This weapon is also the favorite of the strongest Colombian guerrilla group, FARC, so there is speculation over whether leftover weapons may be diverted to Colombia illegally.³

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- An hour outside the city of Peshawar, **Pakistan**, is home to *Darra Adamkhel* (The Arms Market), the largest illegal arms market in the world. The weapons are handmade, and are some of the cheapest weapons in the world; an AK-47 costs \$50 USD, whereas Iranian and Russian weapons cost \$300 USD and up. The guns are replicas of those supplied by the United States to the *Mujahadeen* during the 1980s when the USSR invaded Afghanistan. After the war, the Pashtuns helped supply the Taliban when they began to overrun Afghanistan, and also covertly supplied the Irish Republican Army, the Middle East, and the Muslims in Kashmir.⁵

Past International Action

In 2006, more than 100 member nations of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) submitted their views on creating a possible Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), however, it took several more years for those ideas to be agreed upon. In 2013, the UNGA adopted an ATT on April 2, 2013, which makes it “harder for human rights abusers, criminals and arms traffickers to obtain weapons.” This arms treaty has been worked on since the 1990s.⁶

The treaty works to create a “uniform framework for the international trade in conventional arms.” It also seeks to promote transparency, accountability. Specifically, Article 6 of the treaty explicitly outlines that nation states cannot transfer conventional weapons to parties they know would use them to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, and “grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians protected as such, or other war crimes as defined by international agreements to which it is Party.”

The resolution passed with 154 in favor, 3 against, and 23 abstentions.⁷ The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, and the Syrian Arab Republic were the three nations that voted against the treaty. The ATT entered into force in December of 2014, but countries around the world are still fighting to ratify the treaty.⁸ In August of 2015, the ATT’s first Conference of State Parties occurred in Mexico. During the conference, member states worked to improve the effectiveness of the treaty as well as created a plan for implementation. Once the ATT is ratified, the treaty will enter into full effect and begin to decrease the influence of the illicit arms trade around the world.⁹

The United Nations Development Programme is committed to helping nations and civilians cope with the effects of the illegal arms trade, and outlines these measures through its Crisis Prevention and Recovery department. The UNDP helps over 80 countries strengthen development, specifically in post-crisis countries, by implementing new and innovative strategies to help end conflict and rebuild nations.

An example of a project that the UNDP built in Kenya is the implementation of mobile technology to crowdsource for conflict prevention. The Uwiano platform, which consists of toll-free SMS service, allows people around Kenya to report threats. Over 200,000 SMS messages were received and analyzed and verified by volunteers during the 2010 referendum, and the referendum passed without violence. This system is now going to be implemented on a more permanent basis during the upcoming elections.

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An NGO that helps combat the illicit small arms trade is the United Kingdom-based Campaign Against Arms Trade. This NGO is not only against the illicit trade of small arms, but is a strong proponent of peaceful means to the ending of conflict. It has a commitment to nonviolence, and educates the public through campaigns focusing on ways to promote security around the world that do not include the sale of arms. For example, the Campaign Against Arms Trade suggests that governments should not fund and subsidize the arms trade, and instead look to create jobs in other areas such as green technology to increase security and help people stay out of the illicit arms trade.

Possible Solutions

The illegal small arms trade is an issue that impacts many facets of global affairs, including infrastructure and governmental development, security, and even education. This committee should consider addressing the illicit arms trade as its own issue by carefully evaluating whether the current ATT does an effective job of reducing the number of arms trafficked, but also whether the negative impacts of the trade upon communities have also lessened.

The three main areas that delegates should look at specifically with regard to the arms trade itself are production, marking and tracing, and ammunition:

- **Production:** Questions regarding where the responsibility lies with regard to export and production techniques are still up in the air in spite of the current ATT that was signed in July 2013. Delegates should examine how to include private workshops (like the ones used in Peshawar, Pakistan), into control systems to ensure that manufacturers are held accountable and monitored.
- **Marking and Tracing:** “If national law enforcement officials were able to trace small arms back to their last legitimate owner, who might then be held accountable, this would form an effective measure against illicit trade and diversion.” Delegates should look into establishing an effective way to mark and trace weapons upon production, and how to encourage nations to keep appropriate and accurate records.
- **Ammunition:** More than 80% of ammunition trade remains outside of reliable export data, yet it is a key component of tackling illicit small arms trade. “Preventing [ammunition stockpile] resupply in unlawful situations should be a matter of prime concern.” Security and safety measures with regard to ammunition stockpiles should also be addressed, as many stockpiles are in heavily populated areas and are the cause of thousands of casualties each year.

The illegal small arms trade is an issue that the world can no longer ignore. Millions of people are impacted in all facets of life due to this dangerous business. In addition to armed conflict, people involved directly in the arms trade are often unable to access essential infrastructure components such as education. In order to solve other global issues, such as achieving the

Millennium Development Goals by 2015, this committee has been called upon to find realistic solutions to the illegal small arms trade.

Further Research

Guiding Questions

1. Are small arms a problem in your country? What are your country's gun laws? What is your government doing about illegal guns?
2. What are some secondary effects of the illegal arms trade? What can be done to help the people impacted by these effects?
3. What are some global choke points in the illegal arms trade? What can the UN and member nations do to better control those areas?
4. What can nations that supply (legally and illegally) arms to the global market do to make sure they are properly marking and keeping records of weapons?

Research Sources

- The International Red Cross: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/weapons/small-arms-availability/index.jsp>
- The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW/>
- The Federation of American Scientists' Arms Sales Monitoring Project: <http://www.fas.org/programs/ssp/asmp/index.html>

Endnotes

1. The Office for Disarmament Affairs. The United Nations. Accessed 23 August 2013. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW/>
2. Whitney, Craig R., (December 2012), "Ruling Arms", *World Policy Journal*. <http://www.worldpolicy.org/journal/winter2012/ruling-arms>
3. Dreyfus, Pablo. "A Recurrent Latin American Nightmare: Venezuela and the Challenge of Controlling State Ammunition Stockpiles." The Federation of American Scientists. Accessed 26 August 2013. http://www.fas.org/asmp/library/articles/PIR_Winter_2007_Recurrent.pdf
4. Alvi, Suroosh. Let's Go Pakistan!. Vice Media. <http://www.vice.com/read/lets-v11n2>
5. UNODA update: 02 April 2013. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20130402/>
6. Draft Resolution 67/234B. 67th General Assembly Plenary Meeting. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.217/2013/L.3
7. 67th General Assembly Plenary Meeting, Vote 94, Draft Resolution 67/234B. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20130402/ATTVotingChart.pdf>
8. The Campaign Against Arms Trade <http://www.caat.org.uk/>
9. "Arms Trade Treaty Impact to be Decided at Mexico Conference." Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/08/arms-trade-treaty-impact-to-be-decided-at-mexico-conference/>

Worksheet Questions

1. What percentage of the global arms trade stems from illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons?
2. When did the UN General Assembly create the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)? When did the treaty enter into force?
3. Which 3 countries voted against the ATT?
4. What is another UN body that works to resolve the issue of illicit arms trafficking?
5. What are the 3 main areas of illicit arms trafficking that the international community should focus on solving?

Answer Key

1. 10-20%
2. 2013 and 2014
3. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, and Syria
4. The United Nations Development Programme
5. Production, marking and tracing, and ammunition