



MBMUN

MODEL UNITED NATIONS BANK

3rd Session | 2019 Winter Session

1st DISEC

Disarmament and International Security

Study Guide



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WELCOME LETTERS FROM YOUR CHAIRS

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to welcome you to the 3rd session of the MBMUN 2019 conference. I hope all of you are just as excited as I am for this year's winter session and I cannot wait to see exuberant, prepared and informed delegates during the debate.

As an A Level student who will soon be pursuing Economics as a major, Model UN has played a significant role in strengthening my knowledge about world issues and acknowledging them through the eyes of the economy as a whole. The way Model UN and Economics complement each other has sparked my interest for the two and lead me to being a part of several MUN conferences for the past six years, from being a delegate to a chair to a Secretary General.

But many people have asked me why I have been in MUN for all these years. They've asked me how MUN can solve these issues when we are not physically doing anything to resolve them.

Well, can you solve an issue if you weren't even aware that this issue existed? Are you aware of the issue of climate change or of the increasing rate of poverty in some countries or of the income inequality and discrimination occurring in the world? If not, then now you know why I have been in MUN for more than 6 years of my life.

As an Economics student, I always want to be informed — I want to know what's happening in the world, whether it's about the stock market crash, the USA vs China trade war or about the carbon emissions. Hence, MUN has significantly contributed to that.

With my knowledge and accolades in Economics as well as my achievements and experience in MUN, I cannot wait to impart whatever I have learnt to all of you. Therefore, feel free to contact us anytime you'd like!

I look forward to seeing interesting debates as well as effective solutions being discussed throughout the course of the session. Good Luck!



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Kind regards,

The dias of DISEC



1- INTRODUCTION TO COMMITTEE

1.0 What is the 1st General Assembly (DISEC)?

Ban Ki Moon once said, “The burden for achieving disarmament cannot be borne by peace groups alone. Everybody, regardless of age, income, profession, gender or nationality, has a stake in this quest.”

The Disarmament and International Security Committee was first created in the United Nations Charter, under Chapter IV, with intentions of advocating, debating, and solving matters of international disarmament and security. Out of six General Assembly committees, DISEC is also known as the First Committee in the United Nations.

Disarmament and security have been the core aspects of the United Nations. The emphasis on these aspects has led to Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) being at the forefront of the battle. Following the damage and atrocities, that was a result of the two World Wars, the United Nations’ Member States took to the Charter to maintain international peace. Thus, this committee responds to the need to discuss, find solutions for disarmament and the guarantee of international security

Representing a country in the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) can be both exciting and intimidating. The world's concerns over the issue of disarmament and security are discussed in the GA1.



1.1 What is the difference between DISEC and Security Council?

The distinction between the work of the DISEC Committee and that of the Security Council is a common doubt in the minds of delegates.

There are a number of differences between the two: UNSC has 5 permanent members and 15 non permanent members while the UNGA (as DISEC is a General Assembly Committee) has 192 members.

Another difference is that the UNGA is democratic because they have to vote before they get to a resolution. The UNSC, however, only gives the deciding veto power to the 5 superpowers of the world.

UNGA is also responsible for appointing who can be part of the UNSC as a non-permanent member. Furthermore, it is also responsible for the budget of the UN.

Finally, UNGA is also the one giving recommendations, called General Assembly resolutions, to the various organs and agencies of the UN. It can give recommendations with regards to any topic discussed by the UN except for peace and security, which is under the scope of the UNSC.



1.2 Countries

The following are the countries included for this session:

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom
3. France
4. Russia
5. Germany
6. China
7. Spain
8. Italy
9. Nigeria
10. Pakistan
11. India
12. Bahrain
13. Iran
14. Liberia
15. Colombia



2- AGENDA: PREVENTING THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

2.0 Definitions

- **Ammunition:** cartridges (rounds) for small arms; shells and missiles for light weapons; mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems; anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades; and landmines.
- **Illegal black market transfers:** In clear violation of national and/or international laws and without official government consent or control, these transfers may involve corrupt government officials acting on their own for personal gain.¹
- **Illicit grey market transfers (from Small Arms Survey 2001):** "Governments, their agents, or individuals exploiting loopholes or intentionally circumventing national and/or international laws or policies"²
- **Legal Transfers (from Small Arms Survey 2001):** "These occur with either the active or passive involvement of governments or their authorized agents, and in accordance with both national and international law."³
- **Light weapons:** heavy machine-guns; hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers; portable anti-aircraft guns; portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles; portable

¹ "Small Arms Survey 2001."

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2001/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2001-Chapter-06-EN.pdf>. Accessed 6 Aug. 2019.

² "Small Arms Survey 2001."

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2001/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2001-Chapter-06-EN.pdf>. Accessed 6 Aug. 2019.

³ "Small Arms Survey 2001."

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2001/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2001-Chapter-06-EN.pdf>. Accessed 6 Aug. 2019.



launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems; portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems; mortars of calibers of less than 100 mm

- **Small arms:** revolvers and self-loading pistols; rifles and carbines; sub-machine guns; assault rifles; light machine-guns

2.1 Introduction

The nonproliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has been an ongoing and wholly relevant issue for the United Nations, however, no specific internationally recognized definition of SALW exists.

Small arms are weapons designed for personal use, including light machine guns, sub-machine guns, including machine pistols, fully automatic rifles and assault rifles, and semi-automatic rifles'. Furthermore, light weapons 'include the following portable weapons designed for use by several persons serving as a crew [such as]: heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, howitzers, mortars of less than 100mm caliber, grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons and launchers, recoilless guns, shoulder-fired rockets, anti-aircraft weapons and launchers, and air defense weapons.

SALW account for an estimated 60-90% of the 100,000+ conflict deaths each year (Small Arms Survey 2005) and tens of thousands of additional deaths outside of war zones. They are also the weapons of choice for many terrorists. Estimates report that there are around half a billion military SALW around the world and around 300,000 to 500,000 are killed as a result each year, 80% of which are civilian casualties in modern conflict.

Hundreds of thousands of small arms in leaky government arsenals are vulnerable to theft, loss and diversion. Once acquired by traffickers, these weapons are smuggled across national borders in every conceivable way. They are hidden under sacks of vegetables in the back of pick



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up trucks, packed into household appliances that are then loaded onto cargo ships, even air-dropped out of old Soviet military transport planes.

In the hands of terrorists and other criminals, these weapons have the capacity to kill dozens, even hundreds, of innocent civilians. A shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile - available on the black market for as little as a few thousand dollars - can bring down a commercial airliner.

Even a couple of \$100 assault rifles can inflict horrendous casualties, as evidenced by the November 1997 terrorist attack in Luxor, Egypt, during which 6 terrorists armed only with assault rifles, pistols and knives systematically slaughtered 58 tourists.

The presence of these SALW is also an impediment on humanitarian and developmental action and a cause in destabilizing affected regions. It seems very much clear that the unchecked stream of SALW to areas of conflict brings a significant threat to world peace and security. Although the weaponry are not a primary cause of conflict, their worldwide availability, ease of operation and low cost make it relatively simple for potential belligerents and criminals to both start and sustain deadly conflict.

2.2 Background

The issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) was first raised in a United Nations forum in a 1995 UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution. Following that, two expert groups, established by the Secretary-General, issued reports on the subject.

Multilateral cooperation in this area took a significant step forward when the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held from 9-20 July 2001 at UN Headquarters in New York. The participating States agreed to adopt a Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light



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Weapons in All Its Aspects. This Programme of Action (PoA) includes a number of measures at the national, regional, and global levels, in the areas of legislation, destruction of weapons that were confiscated, seized, or collected, as well as international cooperation and assistance to strengthen the ability of States in identifying and tracing illicit arms and light weapons. The UNGA, welcomed the adoption of the PoA and reiterated Member States' support for action to curb the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons.

2.3 History

Countries with large military arsenals have been selling SALW to third world countries since the sixteenth century, where European traders began trafficking arms into African, American and (to a lesser extent) to Asian markets. The Portuguese acted as the main conduit of firearms thanks to their established global trade routes and was indeed very profitable, despite Papal bans on the sale of weapons to non-Christians first issued in 1179 and onwards.

By the seventeenth century, the Dutch joined Portugal as a role in weapon exporters. Purchasers of these weapons were mostly neighbouring European states, such as England, France, Sweden, Russia, and Poland. By the time weaponry became more advanced, European traders would sell off their old, less desirable weapons in Africa and other countries. The English joined the African arms trafficking business by the turn of the eighteenth century and in the large part, the increase of European traders found themselves in a position to demand more guns in exchange for slaves. East Africa became a main destination for imported firearms through trafficking thanks to the imperial scramble for the continent.

The industrial revolution brought about a huge expansion in the actual volume of this arms trafficking and their mass production produced obsolete castoffs and surplus weapons on an increasing scale. By this time other European nations also followed suit and by 1898, an estimated 300,000 guns had been exported from Europe into Africa.



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While the arms route into Africa contributed to the most volume of traffic, the trade route flowing from the Persian Gulf into Asia became an issue in the late nineteenth century.

The notion that arms ought to be regulated emerged following the First World War through the, newly formed, League of Nations. However, despite European consensus, smaller states rejected this claiming that their sovereignty would be reduced and security diminished because of the control of arms by great powers.

By the end of the 1930s, Belgium, France, Britain, Sweden and the US had all established peacetime licensing of arms exports as normal practice and the embargo on warlord China represented the most sustained effort of this kind. During the Cold War era, arms trafficking received a boost thanks to the vast quantities of surplus war equipment following the Second World War.

Many of the illicit SALW have emanated from surplus stockpiles from the Soviet Union. One of the most notorious of which is the arms dealer Viktor Bout, who exploited loopholes and sold weapons to war-torn countries such as Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Somalia. Bout is now serving a 25-year prison sentence following a conviction in 2011 after being charged of conspiring to sell weapons to Colombian rebels in a deal worth millions of dollars.

Today, the main offenders who contribute to the illicit trade of SALW are developed countries that manufacture the weapons internally then find either domestic buyers or to other nations. Similarly, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — France, China, Russia, the UK and the US — collectively account for 88% of the world's arms exports and these weapons often fall into the hands of nations such as Afghanistan, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela, which allow escalation and instigation of conflicts to occur.

What is clear is that each successive historical period has brought even bigger waves of supply and demand for weaponry and has overwhelmed attempts to monitor and counter the issue.



The ease in accessibility of weapons, especially in developing countries, in addition to ineffective efforts to control the trade, has contributed with clear magnitude, to the devastating violence seen in the world.

2.4 Previous UN Action

UN involvement is an ongoing focus and the first nonproliferation initiative was adopted at the 50th session of the 1996 General Assembly. This initiative was put in place recognizing that small arms form a serious barrier in complete disarmament, but was not a substantial outcome to tackle the issue. A year later in 1997, the first report on the issue of small arms was published by the UN Secretary General, which was followed by a second in 1999. Similarly, these reports merely recognized the already clear correlation between the illicit trade of SALW and increases of internal conflict and the level of crime and violence.

The UN thus introduced, in the UN Document A/CONF.192/15, the “Program of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”, referred to as the Program of Action (PoA), in 2001, which remains as the main international agreement for SALW control. The PoA, however, is an initiative that is non-binding and open to the interpretation of the national government and assigns responsibility to them to solve these issues themselves. The PoA brought about measures that one may well obviously expect such as encouraging strengthening national regulation on the product of SALW, ensuring gun manufacturers mark weapons to allow tracing of seized weapons, encouraging the destruction of old stockpiles, an increase in security of weapon stockpiles, reassurance that UN Security Council embargos on SALW are enforced, encouragement that international and regional cooperation, and improvement in the necessary certifications (licensing) required in



order to access weaponry. Despite the step, the document fails to elaborate on the required commitments regarding an internationally recognized instrument for marking and tracing weapons nor does it go into issues of increasing transparency in SALW legal production, stockpiles, and control of transfers between non-state actors.

Notwithstanding the criticism, the UN has hailed it as a success and the PoA has brought about legally binding agreements in Africa and more than 50 countries have strengthened national laws on gun control in addition to various disarmament campaigns in over 60 countries.

Follow up meetings regarding the PoA occurred in New York in 2003, 2005, and 2006 in light of the main criticisms that the document still does not force countries into carrying out any real action. Unfortunately, these meetings failed to reform the document to further enforce the PoA. The General Assembly, in 2008, went on to adopt a resolution entitled “The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” and in summary it abridged the multiple features of SALW proliferation, adding for more urgency to curb proliferation given its social ramifications. Four years later, the resolution entitled “Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them” was adopted. In 2013, the Secretary General provided a report on the issue reaffirming their negative impact of illicit small arms on security, human rights, and socioeconomic development. This is still a pressing issue for the UN and the most recent meeting was in the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States in 2014.

2.5 Questions that must be addressed in a Resolution

- What measures can be implemented to fight against the root causes of armed violence?
- How can the committee implement these solutions that would effectively prevent the illicit sale of SALW? And how would this differ from previous attempts?
- State a few ways that the informational exchange and data monitoring regarding the illicit arms flow be strengthened?



- What are the advantages and disadvantages of current policies on SALW trade?

- Are there any alternative means of generating income in so to discourage individuals from entering the illicit trade?
- How can we achieve increased data and transparency regarding SALW?
- State a few ways greater transparency can be achieved within countries with unstable and corrupt governments?

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