



Background Paper

Committee: General Assembly

Topic: Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices

Chairs: Aisha Majul Llamas and Jose Antonio Rincon Rodarte

IEDs' (Improvised explosive devices) rarity can be compared to that of household items. Their use is most commonly found amongst warring parties where. These parties may employ IEDs to fend off while in scarce situations, exclusively, by adhering to the established international humanitarian law. Nevertheless, the aforementioned groups often show an utter lack of regard for international humanitarian law; Intentionally with the objective to wreak havoc. The spread of IEDs is the result of simple design, and cheap components remaining accessible. Which has sustained its market through weak borders and criminal networks. Mainly as a result of the mismanagement of existing ammunition stockpiles and the instability of the countries often labeled as conflict zones. The trend has gone as far as forming a lure strong enough to persuade populations located in countries holding strict weapon controls into owning IEDs rather than illicit small arms.

Most notably the effects of IEDs can be reflected by the persistent attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria ,Pakistan and the Syrian Arab republic. Due to their common shared characteristic of being conflict zones at hand of terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida and Boko. However, IED use is a growing trend. The latest uses of IEDs have been reported from all over the world in countries such as: India, United States of America, Norway, Turkey, Colombia, Belgium, the Russian Federation and Thailand. According to a Letter dated (January/22/2014) from the Chair of the Security Council Committee, "In 2015 alone suicide attacks involving IEDs occurred in over 10 per cent of Member States, a greater proportion than any recorded ever before" (Quinlan 17). Although International Law has stipulated the rules for which the use of IEDs is allowed, particularly the conditions of distinction, scale and measures during attack. Having completely prohibited targeting civilians or civilian objects. Terrorist groups have sustained the proliferation of IEDs and their indiscriminate use to gain territorial control. Being their own category of small arms and being completely off government production controls, traditional approaches of regulating the ownership of these weapons have only held limited value. Meaning that maintaining a record of IEDs is nearly impossible for governments to regulate the diversion of them into illicit markets.

As of today, the situation remains outside government controls. Rendering traditionally effective weapon regulation approaches such as: governmental production, trade, and use chokes through policies and agreements, completely futile. The climate calls for a shift in focus, relying on governments to effectively compose comprehensive policies for immediate action. Covering the concerns of commercial mining, inner-city development, violent extremism, and military stockpile management, to agriculture and aviation security. Government cooperation is essential for making progress in resolving the threat posed by IEDs.

“Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices :” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/839764>.

“IEDs – a Growing Threat – Unoda.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds-a-growing-threat/>.

“Improvised Explosive Devices (Ieds) – UNODA.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds/>.