



DISEC



Directors Letter:

Dear Delegates,

My name is Yasmin and I am beyond honoured to be your Director for the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). I am currently in my third year of Model United Nations, and will be entering my sophomore year at Crofton House School this upcoming September. Staffing alongside me will be your Chair Nicholas Woo, and Assistant Director Keira Uy.

Ever since I watched delegates deliver their intriguing, political, and witty speeches at my first ever conference, my fascination for this activity was ignited. I realised that the world of MUN is a divergent learning path that is not linear in any case. This journey has not only nurtured my unrivalled passion for the intricacies of political debate but has also enabled me to forge countless friendships, create cherished experiences, and accumulate unforgettable memories.

I understand that it can be daunting to speak up during a conference, especially as a novice delegate. By taking this first brave step, you stand to gain both confidence and tangible rewards from your BCMUN experience. To prepare for the conference, I urge you to read the background guide thoroughly and conduct country-specific research on the topic of the *Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons*. It is my sincere hope that this committee will provide an extraordinary experience for each of you as you engage in political debate and foster cherishable memories. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at disec@bcmun.org. On behalf of the dais team, I look forward to meeting all of you!

Warm Regards,
Yasmin Kahkesh
Director of DISEC – BCMUN 2023

Committee Description

After World War II, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was established. One of the 6 main General Assemblies of the United Nations (UN) provides a venue for all 193 member countries on the level of an international forum.¹ Since its foundation, DISEC has aided in maintaining international disarmament, peace, and security. The committee is required by Article 11, Chapter 4, which grants the General Assembly the authority to consider "principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments." Government representatives try to reduce the damage that Light Weapons and Small Arms produce during committee meetings.²

DISEC has played a key role in the development of numerous significant treaties during the course of its existence,³ including the "Treaty on the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT) and the "Arms Trade Treaty" (ATT), which aims to stop the traffic in small arms. Many of the member countries have ratified the DISEC-created treaties and resolutions. Small arms and light weapon trade is currently being reduced thanks to DISEC's dedication.⁴

As one of the 6 primary committees, DISEC adopts normative values as a guide rather than as a mandate.⁵ Only the UN Security Council (UNSC) has the authority to adopt resolutions with legal force.⁶ Hence, DISEC resolutions are not subject to implementation by member countries. In addition, it is recommended that member countries come to an agreement through focused discussion and debate.

¹ NHSMUN Editors, "DISEC: Disarmament & International Security Committee: Imuna: NHSMUN: Model UN," IMUNA, 2023,

<https://imuna.org/nhsmun/nyc/committees/disec-disarmament-international-security-committee/>.

² Editors Security Council Report, "Cross-Cutting Report No. 2: The Security Council's Role in Disarmament and Arms Control: Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction : Research Report," Security Council Report, September 1, 2009,

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/research-reports/lookup-c-glkwlemtisg-b-5405331.php>.

³ United Nations Editors, "Disarmament," United Nations, n.d.,

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>.

⁴ Arms Trade Treaty, "The Arms Trade Treaty: Home Page," The Arms Trade Treaty | Home Page, n.d.

[https://thearmstradetreaty.org/#:~:text=The%20Arms%20Trade%20Treaty%20\(ATT,international%20standards%20governing%20arms%20transfers](https://thearmstradetreaty.org/#:~:text=The%20Arms%20Trade%20Treaty%20(ATT,international%20standards%20governing%20arms%20transfers).

⁵ Editors United Nations, "United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly," United Nations, accessed October 9, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>.

⁶ Editors United Nations, "How Decisions Are Made at the UN," n.d.,

<https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/how-decisions-are-made-un#:~:text=The%20only%20resolutions%20that%20have,adopted%20by%20the%20Security%20Council.&text=This%20explains%20why%20Member%20States,widest%20possible%20agreement%20among%20them>.

Topic Overview

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) proliferation is an urgent, global issue that needs the international community, powerful organisations, and public figures to pay quick attention.⁷ The increasing numbers of illegal weapons production, distribution, and stockpiling have the power to both safeguard and put the lives of people all over the world in peril.⁸ The latter, however, continues to be a frequent occurrence because of its role in numerous problems, conflicts, and human rights abuses across the globe as demonstrated by history.⁹

Small arms or light weapons can be defined as any lethal, man-portable weapon designed to fire bullets, shots or projectiles through an explosion. Regardless, the United Nations recognizes that the illegal use of small arms may be necessary in the context of crime and conflict circumstances.¹⁰ However, the general creation, usage, and distribution is prohibited for the benefit of world peace. It is prevalent that the Disarmament and International Security Committee play a crucial role in dealing with such issues in a responsible and professional manner.¹¹

There is an increasing need for workable ways to maintain peace in the face of the proliferation of portable weapons. According to the history of small arms, when these weapons end up in the wrong hands, they cause violence and disturb the calm in the country.¹² No country, area, race, age, gender, or affiliation with a particular religion or ethnic group is immune to this problem since SALW is indiscriminate and consistently poses a serious risk to everyone.¹³

In the end, discussing both the advantages and disadvantages of small arms and light weapons will help delegates come up with workable solutions while partnering with nations who share their viewpoints. Successful resolutions should, however, set an example of taking into account both consequences as well as the socioeconomic impact on participating

⁷ Security Council Meeting Coverage, “Rapid Spread of Small Arms, Light Weapons Still Threatening World Peace, Exacerbating Plight of Civilians in Conflict Zones, Disarmament Chief Tells Security Council | UN Press,” United Nations, October 6, 2021, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14656.doc.htm>.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Editors United Nations, “I International Legal Protection of Human Rights in Armed Conflict - OHCHR,” United Nations Human Rights, 2011, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/HR_in_armed_conflict.pdf.

¹⁰ United Nations Editors, “Programme of Action on Small Arms and Its International Tracing Instrument,” United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, accessed October 9, 2023, <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/>.

¹¹ Stephen Fuhr, “Canada’s Role in International Peace Operations and Conflict Resolution,” House of Commons, May 2019, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/NDDN/Reports/RP10491893/nddnrp16/nddnrp16-e.pdf>

¹² Council of Europe, “Peace and Violence - Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People - Ww.Coe.Int,” Manual for Human Rights Education with Young people, 2023, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/peace-and-violence>.

¹³ US Department of State Editors, “Ukraine - United States Department of State,” U.S. Department of State, March 29, 2023, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/ukraine/>.

nations.¹⁴ Small arms and light weapons are both imperial and save lives, making it more crucial than ever for the Disarmament and International Security Committee to come to a decision that serves both the global community and the United Nations as a whole.

Timeline

January 10, 1920 – After World War I, the League of Nations was founded with the mission of fostering international collaboration and upholding world peace. Its creation symbolised the first worldwide effort to regulate the commerce in armaments. The league, however, had no means of enforcing its rules and ultimately failed.¹⁵

September 1, 1939 - September 2, 1945 – Small arms and light weapons proliferated widely during World War II as nations quickly created and provided them to their armed forces and allies. Numerous of these weapons were still in use after the war, which increased violence and instability throughout numerous areas.¹⁶

August 12, 1949 – The subject of humanitarian treatment in conflict, including the use of weaponry, was addressed by the Geneva Conventions, which were adopted after World conflict II. It laid the foundation for future international regulations governing the proliferation of weapons, despite not being specifically focused on small arms and light weapons.¹⁷

November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975 – Guerrilla forces utilised small arms and light weapons frequently during the Vietnam War. These weapons were widely popularised as a result of this fight, which also highlighted their strategic usefulness.¹⁸

1991 – Small arms and light weapons that had been employed or accumulated by the superpowers were in excess towards the end of the Cold War. These weapons were frequently sold or supplied to developing nations, sparking a boom in the international small arms trade and fueling local wars.¹⁹

April 7, 1994 - July 15, 1994 – The deadly effects of the widespread use of these weapons were brought to light by the Rwandan genocide, where small arms were a key component of

¹⁴ Multiple Countries, “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC,” United Nations, 2012, <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>.

¹⁵ Britannica T. Editors of Encyclopaedia, “League of Nations,” Encyclopedia Britannica, August 11, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/League-of-Nations>.

¹⁶ American Experience PBS Editors, “A History of Biological Weapons,” PBS, accessed October 9, 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/weapon-timeline/>.

¹⁷ ICRC Editors, “The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Their Additional Protocols,” ICRC, October 29, 2010, <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions/overview-geneva-conventions.htm>.

¹⁸ Editors History.com, “Weapons of the Vietnam War,” History.com, May 22, 2019, <https://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/weapons-of-the-vietnam-war>.

¹⁹ Arms Control Association Editors, “Arms Control Association: The Authoritative Source on Arms Control since 1971.”

the mass murders. As a result of criticism for the international community's inaction, negotiations on arms control have continued.²⁰

May 31, 2001 – The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Lightening, Components, and Ammunition was adopted by the United Nations. It was the first globally ratified, legally binding small arms agreement, and it represented a major advance in attempts to stop the spread of such weapons.²¹

April 2, 2013 – The United Nations General Assembly passed the Arms traffic Treaty to control the worldwide traffic in conventional weapons, including light and small arms. Its adoption marked a significant turning point in the fight against the illicit arms trade.²²

January 29-31, 2017 – By 2020, the African Union aspired to abolish all wars, gender-based violence, violent conflicts, and acts of genocide on the continent. Their ambition exemplified seriousness in addressing the proliferation of small guns.²³

May 31, 2023 – Recognizing the high number of deaths and injuries brought on by small arms violence, the World Health Organization classified the proliferation of small guns to be a global public health concern.²⁴

Historical Analysis

After World War II, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) became more of a concern, and throughout the Cold War, superpowers like the United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) provided weapons to allies.²⁵ Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, ex-Soviet weaponry was acquired by non-state entities, increasing armed conflict around the world.²⁶

²⁰ Tor Sellström, “Historical Perspective: Some Explanatory Factors,” The International Response to Conflict and Genocide, accessed October 10, 2023, <https://www.oecd.org/derec/unitedstates/50189653.pdf>.

²¹ UNODC Editors, “The Firearms Protocol,” United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime, May 31, 2001, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/the-firearms-protocol.html>.

²² Peter Woolcott, “Arms Trade Treaty,” United Nations, April 2, 2013, <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/att/att.html#:~:text=A%20consensus%20decision%20to%20address,9%20to%2020%20July%202001>

²³ Zipporah Musau, “Silencing the Guns Campaign Kicks off in 2020 | Africa Renewal,” United Nations, December 23, 2019, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/silencing-guns-campaign-kicks-2020>.

²⁴ United Nations Editors, “Injuries and Violence,” World Health Organization, March 19, 2021, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/injuries-and-violence>.

²⁵ T. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, “Cold War,” Encyclopædia Britannica, September 28, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

²⁶ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, “Collapse of the Soviet Union,” Encyclopædia Britannica, September 13, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/the-collapse-of-the-Soviet-Union>.

The emergence of SALW attracted attention on a global scale in the 1990s. SALW trade regulation and preventing unlawful diversion were goals of initiatives like the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty and the UN's 2001 conference on the illicit trade in small arms.²⁷

However, despite technological breakthroughs and the expansion of illicit online trade, SALW spread continued. A considerable amount of weapons were also dispersed as a result of the Middle Eastern crises and the rise of non-state organisations like ISIS.²⁸ With the advent of 3D printing in the late 2010s, SALW control faced additional difficulties because domestically produced weapons made regulation and enforcement more difficult.

SALW proliferation is thus a complicated subject with post-WWII geopolitical roots. Despite efforts to regulate the issue, technological advancements and international wars keep making it worse and have a negative influence on growth and global security.²⁹

Current Situation

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) distribution is still a pressing issue on a global basis. The term "SALW" refers to a wide range of weapons, including handguns, portable grenade launchers, and several assault rifle variants.³⁰ Due to their accessibility, cost, and ease of use, these weapons are frequently used by armed organisations, terrorist groups, and some state actors. SALW circulation and illegal commercial activities in unstable, conflict-affected regions have a negative impact on peace and security.³¹ Along with the rise of organised crime and hostilities. Proliferation hinders economic development and puts the rule of law in jeopardy. The United Nations (UN) has taken the lead in international efforts to halt the spread of SALW.³² The complexity of the global arms trade, problems in implementing efficient supervision mechanisms, a lack of political will, tax legislation, lack of enforcement in some countries, and these are only a few of the major obstacles to development.

²⁷ Security Council Meeting Coverage, "Human Cost of Illicit Flow of Small Arms, Light Weapons Stressed in Security Council Debate | UN Press," United Nations, May 13, 2015, <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sc11889.doc.htm>.

²⁸ Vladimir Voronkov, "Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) |," United Nations, 2017, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/>.

²⁹ Ajay Darshan Behera, "Strategic Analysis: A Monthly Journal of the IDSA," Light weapons diffusion and security: Towards a conceptual understanding, July 2001, https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/sa/sa_july01bea01.html.

³⁰ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Editors, "Programme of Action," Office for Disarmament Affairs, n.d., <https://www.unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/poa/#:~:text=The%20UN%20Programme%20of%20Action,Sma ll%20Arms%20and%20Light%20Weapons>

³¹ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Editors, "Programme of Action."

³² Raymond O Wolfe, "The UN Role and Efforts in Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons," United Nations, accessed October 9, 2023, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/un-role-and-efforts-combating-proliferation-small-arms-and-light-weapo ns>.

Case Study

Since 2014, Yemen, a nation on the Arabian Peninsula, has been engulfed in a lengthy civil war.³³ The Houthi rebels, the Yemeni government, as well as international forces—most notably, a coalition led by Saudi Arabia—are all parties to the fight. This case study provides a glimpse into the terrible effects of SALW proliferation in a nation racked by civil war. The battle in Yemen has been marked by a heavy usage of SALW.³⁴ These weapons' accessibility and availability have considerably fueled the conflict and led to a sharp increase in violence. The long-standing cultural heritage of gun ownership in Yemen and lax regulatory framework are major contributors to the accessibility of these weapons. A booming illegal arms trade has also been made possible by Yemen's open borders, with firearms entering the nation from a variety of sources. Significant arms transfers into Yemen are known to have occurred, frequently in violation of international law and restrictions.³⁵ These weapons' inflow has had terrible humanitarian repercussions. Significant civilian casualties, population displacement, and pervasive fear and insecurity have all been caused by armed conflict. This problem is made worse by the use of SALW by non-state armed groups, such as terrorist and extremist organisations.³⁶

The supply of weaponry into the nation has not been considerably reduced despite numerous international attempts, including a UN arms embargo on the Houthi troops.³⁷ This failure might be linked to the difficulties of enforcing such regulations in a complex combat zone, as well as the complicity or carelessness of regional and international powers. The situation in Yemen serves as an example of how the unregulated spread of SALW may prolong and intensify a conflict, thwart efforts to promote peace, and cause great suffering among civilian populations.³⁸ It highlights the urgent requirement for efficient controls to halt the flow of these weapons, such as strong and enforced international laws, tighter border checks, and targeted operations to dismantle illegal arms networks.

³³ Kali Robinson, "Yemen's Tragedy: War, Stalemate, and Suffering," Council on Foreign Relations, May 1, 2023, <https://www.cfr.org/background/yemen-crisis>.

³⁴ Kali Robinson, "Yemen's Tragedy: War, Stalemate, and Suffering."

³⁵ Rhonda Ferguson and Zarlusht Jamal, "A Health-Based Case against Canadian Arms Transfers to Saudi Arabia," Health and human rights, December 2020, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7762919/>.

³⁶ Ban Ki-Moon, "UN Peacebuilding: AN Orientation," UN Women, 2015, https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/globalstudywps_en_web.pdf

³⁷ Samuel Perlo-Freeman, "Who Is Arming the Yemen War? An Update," Reinventing Peace, November 23, 2020, <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2019/03/19/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-an-update/>.

³⁸ Security Council Meeting Coverage, "Situation in Yemen Remains Stable, Special Envoy Tells Security Council, Highlighting Importance of Resuming Political Process, Ceasefire | UN Press," United Nations, January 16, 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15176.doc.htm>.

Past Involvement

The long-term growth of socioeconomic nations is gravely threatened by the international proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The United Nations, however, has taken international action to advance the greater good rather than a zero-sum competition.

The Programme of Action to Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), which was adopted by all UN member states, was established by the UN in 2001.³⁹ By enacting such a program, nations consent to develop appropriate weapon labelling, minimise and secure production and arsenal oversight, control appropriately the distribution of national arms, increase collaboration in the tracing of weapons, and take part in international cooperation and aid. Upon submission of national reports by UN member states, key performance indicators of PoA are analysed, enabling the UN to gather feedback and ultimately strengthen collaboration efforts inside government agencies.⁴⁰ The successful execution of PoA is mainly dependent on local customs and the effectiveness of societal institutions like state-level police and intelligence agencies.

Additionally, the International Tracing Instrument was implemented within the PoA structure in 2005 to improve national cooperation, identification, and tracing capabilities in order to eventually eradicate the ubiquitous issue of small arms and light weapons.⁴¹ This instrument further strengthens the worldwide PoA agreement while promoting and facilitating international collaboration in the labelling and selling of SALW. The current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has the objective of enhancing weapon tracing. Both techniques work in tandem with the PoA to create a standardised framework for firmly ending the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons.⁴²

The Protocol against the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol), which was established in 2001 and came into effect in 2005, continues to be the only international measure against the production of small arms and light weapons that is banned.⁴³ The Firearms Protocol offers a comprehensive framework for managing legal arms transfers and regulating legal arms flows while preventing diversion

³⁹ Reaching Critical Will Editors, "UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons," Reaching Critical Will, n.d, <https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/salw#:~:text=The%20UN%20Programme%20of%20Action,%2C%20regional%2C%20and%20international%20levels>.

⁴⁰ Sarah Parker and Katherine Green, "Unidir United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms Submitted by States," UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH, 2012, <https://unidir.org/sites/default/files/publication/pdfs/a-decade-of-implementing-the-unpoa-analysis-of-national-reports-en-301.pdf>.

⁴¹ United Nations Editors, "Programme of Action on Small Arms and Its International Tracing Instrument," United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, n.d, <https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/>, 1.

⁴² Izumi Nakamitsu, "Advancing Disarmament within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," United Nations, August 2018, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/advancing-disarmament-within-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>.

⁴³ United Nations Editors, "Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and ... - United Nations," United Nations, accessed October 10, 2023, https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/RecentTexts/18-12_c_E.pdf.

into illegal trade and performing in-depth investigations without impeding legitimate transfers.⁴⁴

Potential Solutions

Revisement of current treaties

The UN has currently developed a number of Guidelines to combat weapon disarmament. The "Arms Trade Treaty" (ATT) and the "Youth, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Arms Control" were established by DISEC under the auspices of the UN. Around the world, the "Arms Trade Treaty" has had varying degrees of success. The goal of the ATT is to prevent SALW from falling into the wrong hands and being used to commit crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other atrocities.⁴⁵ The ATT has produced conflicting results in the ten years after it was first implemented. All countries are required by the ATT to provide an annual report outlining their end users, types, and quantity.⁴⁶ When providing these reports, several countries lacked transparency, and some have not yet. These studies are crucial to understanding the usage of SALW, who is using them, and how nations may lessen its consequences. Notably, a number of countries, including Russia and the United States of America, have not ratified the agreement.⁴⁷ Russia has not yet joined the pact noting the benefits and drawbacks, despite the fact that the US is officially a signatory but the deal has not yet been ratified by the US government.⁴⁸ The ATT's lax enforcement is just another issue. Even though the ATT is an international treaty, it still primarily depends on countries submitting yearly reports and countries passing laws to assist limit the consequences.

International Assistance

While the majority of SALW-related conflicts occur in underdeveloped countries. The ATT relies significantly on national governments to pass legislation to fight SALW even though it offers instructions in this area.⁴⁹ Many underdeveloped countries are unable to completely handle the issue. Developing countries that are having trouble stopping the use of SALW can benefit from international aid.⁵⁰ Increased disarmament initiatives for nations to destroy excess weapon stockpiles under proper management to properly dispose of SALW without

⁴⁴ United Nations Editors, "Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking In ...," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, May 31, 2001,

https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/Firearms/12-56168_Firearm_booklet_ebook.pdf, 2

⁴⁵ Alexandra Boivin, "Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos," International Review of Red Cross, September 2005, https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/abccorte/ABC_es.pdf, 3

⁴⁶ Stimson Editors, "Taking Stock of ATT Reporting Trends and Challenges - The Stimson Center," Stimson, August 2022, https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Taking-Stock-of-ATT-Reporting-Trends-and-Challenges_web.pdf, 3.

⁴⁷ Anya Wahal, "On International Treaties, the United States Refuses to Play Ball," Council on Foreign Relations, January 7, 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/international-treaties-united-states-refuses-play-ball>, 8.

⁴⁸ NATO Editors, "Russia Relations: The Facts," NATO, July 9, 2016, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_111767.htm.

⁴⁹ Editors, "Disarmament."

⁵⁰ Wolfe, "The UN Role and Efforts in Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons

the worry of it being utilised again is just one example of how the assistance may be provided. Along the lines of providing foreign aid, wealthy countries might aid in boosting the number of Disarmament, Demobilize, and Reintegration (DDR) initiatives in developing countries that can greatly lessen the harm caused by SALW.⁵¹ Through vocational training, these initiatives can assist in demobilising combatants, removing superfluous weapon stockpiles, and reintegrating them into society. International assistance has a lot of potential, but trust remains a fundamental issue.⁵²

Bloc Positions

Western Bloc

Countries including the United States of America, United Kingdom, and others promote international security.⁵³ However, they struggle to balance local interests and political reasoning, such regulated international arms transactions and the right to bear arms guaranteed by the constitution.

African Bloc

Conflicts related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) regularly impact the African continent.⁵⁴ Governments recognize the persistent need for international laws, external assistance, and sociopolitical advancement in the fight against illicit weapon trades—despite many trades countering political instability and immense corruption.

Asian Bloc

The diversified Asian bloc includes nations such as Japan. who pushes for international gun control agreements, and arm-heavy producers such as China and India, which value national sovereignty over arms control while also considering the prevention of the misuse of SALW. Nevertheless, it is prevalent for countries to strike a balance between such values and reach an equal agreement.⁵⁵

⁵¹ United Nations Peacekeeping Editors, “Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Peacekeeping,” United Nations, n.d, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration>.

⁵² Savannah de Tessières, “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament ...,” United Nations, accessed October 10, 2023, https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/ddr-handbook-2ed-3_2021.pdf, 8.

⁵³ Gale Editors, “Scholarly Articles on Gun Control: History, Legislation & Activism - Gale,” Gale, June 2, 2022, <https://www.gale.com/open-access/gun-control>.

⁵⁴ 1. Henny J van der Graaf, “Proliferation of Light Weapons in Africa - JSTOR,” JSTOR, August 1997, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4532407>.

⁵⁵ 1. Ashley J Tellis and Sean Mirski, “China, India, and the Emerging Global Order - Carnegie Endowment For ...,” Carnegie Endowment, 2013, https://carnegieendowment.org/files/crux_of_asia.pdf.

Discussion Questions

1. What effects have small gun proliferation had on world conflicts?
2. What examples of efforts to limit the spread of small guns exist?
3. How has the use of small arms been impacted by organisations like ISIS and Boko Haram?
4. What impact have the internet and 3D printing technology had on the spread of tiny arms?
5. How can regulations regulating the production and trafficking of small guns be strengthened?
6. What actions can states take after analysing history to lessen the impact that small guns have on international security?

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https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/sa/sa_july01bea01.html.
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<https://www.britannica.com/event/the-collapse-of-the-Soviet-Union>.
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