United Arab Emirates

Positions for the General Assembly First Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Before the General Assembly First Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee are the following topics: The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence and Combating the Global Illicit Arms Trade. The United Arab Emirates feels that addressing these issues would help foster a more secure future and welcomes their discussion at the upcoming meeting of the First Committee.

**I. The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ***recognizes*** that rising concerns regarding the weaponization of artificial intelligence (AI) necessitate an international dialogue and ***supports*** international calls for ethically developing AI. However, to ensure continual innovation, the Emirates also ***realizes*** AI’s capability to improve the lives of its citizens and remains ***committed*** to developing this technology for these purposes.

On the benefits of AI, the UAE reports tremendous success in improving its approach to medical treatment. The Emirates ***bolstered*** its diagnostic procedures through AI technology for tuberculosis (TB), a prevalent disease in the region. With the assistance of AI technology, the UAE has reported an estimated total of only 78 TB cases in 2021. Additionally, the use of small-scale testing of AI in the UAE, Dubai’s police force, has shown ***improvements*** in emergency responses such as roadway accidents. In 2021, the agency reported response times under three minutes, a ***decrease*** from a six-minute average. While there are valid concerns regarding AI development, the UAE’s AI integration across its states shows the potential of this emerging technology in paving the way for future technological advancement.

To combat the misuse of AI, the United Arab Emirates ***established*** a robust framework for governmental oversight and has taken great strides to ***secure*** the safety and well-being of its people. In 2017, the Emirates ***created*** the Council for Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain to outline a national strategy for implementing AI across the UAE. The council also oversees the publication of reports and guidelines for AI development and ensures that the UAE ***adheres*** to international standards concerning the use of AI. The Emirates has also ***invested*** in educating its population on AI by providing training for its citizens and government officials. The Emirates also ***offers*** educational opportunities for youth to get involved in AI development through the UAE AI Camp.

In ***partnership*** with the University of Oxford, the UAE offers degrees in AI production, providing students with the tools necessary to face future technological challenges. The Emirates has also ***collaborated*** with the State of Israel to develop and test an anti-drone system that promotes and improves regional ***security***. The Emirates believes these cooperative efforts in testing AI provides vital feedback necessaryto improve AI technology and ***ensure*** national security. Furthermore, ***realizing*** the central role of cultural diversity in building AI that does not disproportionately target social and ethnic minorities, the UAE has sought to promote inclusivity within the AI development process by promoting development teams reflective of the national population. The Emirates is also proud to be one of the 193 member states to ***support*** the United Nations Education Science Culture Organization’s Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (UNESCO REAI), which outlines the ethical development of AI.  
 While primary concerns regarding AI weaponization pertain to the threat of autonomous weapons, the UAE ***emphasizes*** that any improper development and use of AI constitutes a significant threat to global security. The United Arab Emirates ***strongly believes*** that AI used to degrade, target, or persecute individuals is considered a weaponization of artificial intelligence. ***Recognizing*** the importance of state sovereignty, the United Arab Emirates ***encourages*** member states to enact policies that oversee and regulate the development of AI within their borders. The UAE believes state governments play a central role in preventing the misuse of AI while promoting its benefits. Believing regional collaboration is instrumental in developing AI responsive to its environment, the Emirates ***proposes*** continued regional testing and development of AI. The UAE is confident these tests provide crucial feedback for improving data diversity, reducing technological bias, and producing inclusive technology that does not discriminate against ethnic and social minorities. Finally, the United Arab Emirates ***acknowledges*** the United Nations’ role in supporting sovereign nations and ***advocates*** the adoption of an international framework that expands on the suggestions laid out in the REAI to provide clear guidance on continual AI development. The United Arab Emirates fundamentally believes that we, as a global community, can effectively combat the weaponization of artificial intelligence through ***individual oversight, regional collaboration***, and ***international guidance.***

**II. Combating the Global Illicit Arms Trade**

To date, the illicit arms trade retains a global presence, most notably affecting Africa, the Americas, and Asia, according to a 2022 Global Initiative Report. Aware of the significant threat illicit arms pose to international security and its lasting impact on global safety, the United Arab Emirates ***believes*** the international community must collectively reduce its spread. To this end, the UAE ***remains committed*** to efforts that curb their global movement while providing legitimate avenues to conduct legal weapons trade.

While directly addressing the illegal transfer of arms and weapon material remains essential, tackling underlying conditions that fuel the illicit arms trade is equally vital. The United Arab Emirates has taken significant measures to ***address*** the illegal arms trade by ***reducing*** corruption, ***improving*** cooperation between governmental agencies, and ***decreasing*** money laundering. According to Transparency International, a global nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO) that monitors trends in corruption, the UAE has ***maintained*** a low corruption score since 2017. From Transparency International in 2021, the Emirates ranked 21st for its anti-corruption efforts and received a positive score of 71/100. Further, to ***promote*** cooperation across its government, the UAE’s Federal Customs Authority holds committee meetings attended by ministerial representatives and police officials to exchange various reports and information regarding the illicit arms trade within the country.

Since 2000, the UAE has ***dedicated*** itself to combating financial fraud by creating the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Financing of Illegal Organizations (NAMLCFTC). Through the NAMLCFTC, the UAE ***established*** a framework that monitors and develops strategies to combat financial misconduct. The committee also ***enforces*** compliance with Federal Decree 20 of 2018, which outlaws financial impropriety and financing terrorist organizations. Furthermore, in 2020, the UAE ***developed*** the National Strategy on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism for 2020 to 2023. Under this strategy, the United Arab Emirates seeks full compliance with the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) guidelines for combating money laundering by 2023.

Despite numerous efforts to reduce money laundering, the Emirates ***acknowledges*** the recent decision by FATF to place the UAE on its financial gray list for insufficient measures against financial fraud. To this end, the Emirates ***issued*** a statement signaling that it is ***currently*** working with the FATF to improve national regulatory standards, comply with its criteria, and reduce illegal money laundering. Additionally, the Emirates ***addressed*** concerns regarding the country’s judiciary structure and, in 2020, ***established*** a dedicated court system to prosecute crimes associated with money laundering and tax evasion. The Emirates ***launched*** Raqeeb, an informant program developed by the Federal Tax Authority to report findings of tax evasion and improve adherence to national taxation policies. Through consistent trade regulation and strengthening of national financial oversight, the UAE seeks to make progress on reducing the illicit global arms trade while securing its position as a reputable trading hub for international business markets.

To further its mission, the UAE ***remains committed*** to fighting the illegal trade of weapons globally, believing these efforts to promote international security while supporting efforts by individual sovereign states to address the issue. Echoing these commitments, the Emirates has ***adopted*** numerous international treaties, such as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which outlines protocols for stopping the production and transport of illegal weapons and materials used for their construction. Additionally, as a signatory to the recent Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which monitors the international weapons trade, the Emirates ***maintains*** its commitment to ongoing efforts on this issue.

While the illicit arms trade remains at its heart a global issue that poses a significant threat to all member states, the United Arab Emirates ***strongly believes*** individual sovereign states remain at the forefront of the worldwide strategy for stopping the spread of illegal weapons. As such, the UAE ***encourages*** fellow member states to develop laws and policies that actively restrict the movement of illicit arms within their borders. The Emirates also ***suggests*** thatsovereign states establish governmental institutions that regulate and monitor the flow of illegal arms while targeting factors that allow illicit trade to flourish, such as corruption and money laundering. By improving arms trade regulations within sovereign nations and addressing underlying causes for illegal trade, the UAE believes we can directly reduce the unlawful movement of weapons across national borders. Further, recognizing the importance of global support, the Emirates ***calls on the*** international community to improve the ATT’s provision concerning aid to countries afflicted with the illicit arms trade. To ensure these member states receive the proper resources and international assistance addresses their concerns, the UAE ***proposes*** the creation of a regulatory body overseeing aid implementation. The United Arab Emirates believes sovereign nations can strengthen regulatory efforts and effectively tackle illicit arms trading through ***collaboration*** between the international community and individual states.