



## **Indore World Summit**

### **Study Guide (UNSC)**



**Security Council**

### **AGENDA**

**Addressing the proliferation of armed militias in  
destabilized countries.**

### **Letter from the executive board**

Dear delegates,

Team MUNIVERSITI welcomes each one of you to IWS 2022. Several of you may be attending your very first ever MUN conference, and we strongly urge you to review the study guide that has been compiled for you as a part of the conference to get a better understanding of the issue. We encourage all participants to be pragmatic in their outlook towards this conference. In order to reform policy and understand the mechanisms of global politics, it is imperative to comprehend the values and principles behind each agenda.

However, there is a lot of content available beyond this study guide too. In order to get the most out of your intellectual energy, you will need to research, collate, write down possible points of discussion, questions, and possible responses. At the same time, it is not just about speaking and presenting, but also about the ability to listen, understand viewpoints and learn new perspectives from one another. Winning should not be your motive, but instead you should be motivated by learning, since learning something means that you are the real winner, directly and/or indirectly.

Wishing all of you a great learning experience. Looking forward to having you all with us.

Best wishes.

Executive Board

## **Committee Overview**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and is charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter. Its powers include establishing peace-keeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states. The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent. Resolutions of the Security Council are typically enforced by UN peace-keepers, which consist of military forces voluntarily provided by member states and funded independently of the main UN budget.

### **Introduction**

For several years, the trade in weapons has been among the most lucrative businesses in the world with predictable increases year after year. The ready availability of weapons and ammunition leads to human suffering, political repression, crime and terror among civilian populations. Irresponsible arms transfers can destabilize an entire region, enable violations of arms embargoes and contribute to human rights abuses. Investment is discouraged, and development disrupted in countries experiencing conflict and high levels of violence. Countries affected by conflict or pervasive crime have the most difficulty attaining internationally agreed development goals.

Ever since WWII, the arms and ammunition industry has been growing. To equip themselves with the best of the equipment and weapons, countries have hired private institutions to manufacture weapons for their armies. However, this disinvestment in the sector has led to black-marketing. Several companies have falsified their records and dealt arms worth millions of dollars under the table. Where do these weapons go?

Well, a high percentage of these black-marketed goods goes to armed militias. Even though most companies don't intend to sell these to militias and terrorists, some "middlemen" deal these to the militias.

These middlemen are people of foreign governments, mainly of their country's respective secret services; and in most destabilized countries the militias govern the country via the "puppet government" installed by them.

yes, there was a drastic step taken to curb this problem, it still persists. Before the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April 2013 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, there was no global set of rules governing the trade in conventional weapons. The ATT sets robust international standards to help guide governments in deciding whether or not to authorize arms transfers. It provides for cooperation and assistance to help countries develop adequate regulatory systems and safe weapons stockpiles. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty marked a turning point in the international community's efforts to regulate the global trade in conventional arms and to promote peace and security.



### **What does the ATT do?**

The Arms Trade Treaty is the first legally-binding instrument ever negotiated in the United Nations to establish common standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons. The development of common international standards for the trade of conventional arms has been a long time in the making, with origins in the League of Nations draft convention on the arms trade which was never adopted.

The Arms Trade Treaty matters to a broad cross-section of countries. The successful conclusion of the negotiating process on 2 April 2013 was just the first step. The humanitarian and security potential of this Treaty will only be realised when countries at all points in the supply-chain, both major arms producing States and developing countries alike, join and implement the Treaty.

The Treaty's impact will be measured by how it is implemented on the ground. The political will of States to ensure the Treaty's robust implementation will need to be

maintained. Many States will need to allocate resources to strengthen their own national systems for controlling imports and exports and to meet reporting requirements set out in the ATT. For many States, they will not be able to do this alone. For those States in a position to do so, their willingness to support and assist other States which may require legislative, technical or financial assistance or institutional capacity-building in order to implement the ATT will also be crucial. In the future, States' progress in meeting ATT obligations will need to be monitored.

The ATT is already prompting States to take stock of their existing transfer controls – be they exporting, importing, or transit States – and to identify weaknesses and gaps. When the Treaty enters into force and as the regular Conference of States Parties take hold, it will underscore that the discussions and scrutiny of the arms trade have firmly found a place on the multilateral agenda.

But the question that arises is that how did these militias become to grow so powerful in the first place?

#### Drawbacks of the ATT

1. Several countries including Germany, which ratified the ATT in 2014, have guidelines that the government is supposed to follow when it approves weapons exports. Still, they remain just that – guidelines, not laws.
2. Perhaps the most egregious example of an ATT signatory ignoring the treaty is the UK's \$4.7-billion (3.9-billion-euro) arms deal with Saudi Arabia. This country has been leading a relentless bombing campaign in the Yemen Civil War since 2015.
3. One of the weaknesses is that ammunition does not appear to be included in the ATT. Another potential loophole is that the recording of weapons is still under the control of the member states. But perhaps the most significant loophole is not in the treaty itself, but in those who might not sign up for it.





## Growth of armed militias

Most of the destabilized countries have a very simple reason for their current state, and that is the rise of powerful militias. These militias gain political power and brain-wash people into following them, mainly by pressuring them by their advanced armory. People have no choice but to follow them. This enables them to take control and power. But how did they obtain these weapons in the first place? As aforementioned, they purchase these weapons from private manufacturers and use them to terrorize people. A solution to this problem, is crystal clear; to stop this illegal trading of weapons. But, this is something the world has been trying to solve for years, and nothing concrete has been formed. Is this even possible in the first place? Because if not stopped, this illegal trade of arms will lead to the gravest consequences known to mankind.

Also, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a modest-in-size market. It remains closely linked with further illegal activities and it is a supplementary rather than a primary source of income for the organised criminal groups. The illegal firearms trade generates between 125 million EUR to 236 million EUR per year globally, which represents between 10% to 20% of the total trade in legal firearms. In 2015, it was estimated that 640 million of illicit firearms were in circulation – which account as of 1 illicit firearm per 11 people in the regions of the United Nations. Whilst most arms trafficking is conducted by private entities, governments also contribute to the illicit trade of ammunition in contravention of UN arms embargoes. As revealed by Small Arms Survey, in recent years, several governments were involved in the undercovered delivery of SALW to armed groups in Somalia, breaching the long-standing UN arms embargo and destabilizing political dynamics in the region (Small Arms Survey). There is, therefore, a link between illicit and the legal trade in

SALW.

Amnesty International pinpointed the US, Russia, France, Germany and China as five largest authorized arms exporters; and Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and Algeria as the five largest authorized arms importers (Amnesty International). While transnational flows in SALW serves as an indicator to understand the supplier-intermediator-user sequence of the illicit trade in firearms, black markets take place on a regional or local level and it predominantly emerges in conflict-armed areas, where the demand for unauthorized weapon is at stake. One most common method for a firearm to exit the legal circuit and enter the illicit market is the “straw purchaser”. It occurs when an ineligible buyer of weapons uses another person (the ‘straw purchaser’) to purchase a firearm. This method is prevalent in the United States, and it has been commonly used to transfer SALW from US residents with no criminal records to violent armed groups in Mexico.

## What illegal trade leads to



Proxy wars- The use of proxy actors in warfare is not a new phenomenon. They have been an instrument of foreign policy and a feature of inter-state competition through the ages. Powerful states have frequently backed rebel groups operating on an opponent’s territory or used militias and mercenaries to support a client state in an internal conflict, while seeking to avoid direct involvement. Proxy warfare was prevalent during the Cold War as the United States (US) and the Soviet Union sought to pursue their rivalry without risking a military confrontation that could lead

to nuclear war. The Soviet Union supported anti-colonial and revolutionary movements opposed to the West, while the US backed anti-communist leaders and counter-revolutionaries. The use of proxy forces has again increased in the twenty-first century as states with a stake in an internal conflict seek to use military force

indirectly in order to minimise the political and financial costs and risks of involvement. The tendency to outsource warfare to non-state agencies seems set to continue, as contemporary conflicts in the Middle East, Africa and Ukraine illustrate.

Non-state proxy armed forces are most commonly identified as irregular military organisations that act wholly or partially on behalf of a foreign government in an internal armed conflict. They include militias, insurgents and “terrorists”

Arms dealers- Brutal civil wars in Syria and Yemen, coupled with the return of great power rivalries between the US, Russia and China, have brought the world’s arms trade into sharp focus.

And unsurprisingly it is a thriving global industry, with the total international trade in arms now worth about \$100bn (£74bn) per year.

In its latest figures, the defence industry think tank says that major weapons sales in the five years to 2017 were 10% higher than in 2008-12. (impact)

And it is the United States that is extending its lead as the globe’s number one arms exporter.

It estimates that the US now accounts for 34% of all global arms sales, up from 30% five years ago, and are now at their highest level since the late 1990s.

In a world where arms sales are rising, the major exception to this seems to have been Africa. Between 2008-12 and 2013-17 arms imports by African countries fell by 22%. Yet crucially, the figures here do not tell the whole story. Internationally, arms sales are measured by the total value of the contract - but this downplays the significance of small arms and light weapons to continuing conflicts in Africa, most notably South Sudan’s civil war.

Case study-





There is no doubt that the Syrian War has dragged on for too long. The very base cause of this war persistently carrying on for so is the continuous supply of arms and ammunitions by several countries; majorly by Russia supplying a heap load of weapons to Bashar Al-Assad. Even though Russia has denied such accusation, evidence provided by several agencies including the United Nations do suggest that black marketing of these weapons by private Russian Companies does take place.

Contrary to popular beliefs, even the Syrian Arab Republic is backed by several rebel groups in the middle east who receive arms and ammunitions from developed nations through illegal trade and trafficking. This supply of arms and ammunitions



has been acting as fuel to the war for years, and the allegedly accused organisations who supply these weapons as catalysts. Considering the fact that without these illegally supplies arms, these militias would've died out, ending the entire war. However, such is not the case. Militias like these have been violating human rights, terrorising civilians, destroying property, killing people and destabilizing the entire country.

The infamous Iran-Iraq war, known for the deaths of several thousand people has been waging on for the very same reason as the Syrian War. A similar case of proxy war has its root in the illegal trade of arms and ammunitions. Saudi Arabia and several other middle eastern nations have added fuel to this fire by providing them the military support to continue this war. Destroying this trade would mean to end the war. But these powerful governments just don't seem to come to consensus.

Dangers of illegally stockpiled weapons-

The proliferation and stockpiling of illicit weapons continue to threaten international peace and security, exacerbating the plight of civilians in strife-torn countries world-

wide, the senior United Nations disarmament official told the Security Council today.

“The misuse, illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons, and their ammunition, remain a defining factor in undermining peace and security at the national, regional and global levels and have deeply aggravated situations for vulnerable populations already suffering from conflict,” Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, said in a briefing to the 15-member organ.

Presenting the Secretary-General’s biennial report on small arms and light weapons (document S/2021/839), she said that their use can render arms embargoes ineffective, sustain conflict dynamics, and endanger peacekeepers, aid workers and local populations, while stymieing the implementation of peace agreements.

While commending the Council’s increasing consideration of the issue in its work, as reflected in its inclusion of arms-related provisions in recent peace operation mandates in Abyei, Mali, Central African Republic and elsewhere, she encouraged the Council to also focus on conflict-prevention, pointing out that poorly maintained stockpiles impact peace in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Noting the issue’s impact on women, peace, security and children, she called for strengthened integration and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data on small arms and light weapons, and for support to be lent to civil society organizations. Citing the growing threat of illicit reactivation of poorly deactivated small arms and the shift in weapon purchases through the darknet — making them difficult to detect and investigate — she called for the early adoption of measures to address such emerging challenges so that small arms control remains effective.

David Lochheed, Senior Researcher of the Small Arms Survey, also briefed the Council, providing a vivid illustration of the grave impact of the issue on peacekeeping operations on the ground, describing trends in the proliferation of such weapons, and proposing comprehensive solutions to tackle the problem. Over the course of 15 years in peacekeeping operations, he observed that the unchecked proliferation of arms, ammunitions and explosives poses one of the greatest challenges to peacekeeping. Improvised explosive devices had a particularly devastating effect in asymmetric conflicts such as in Mali, where they accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the United Nations fatalities from malicious acts in MINUSMA, with the balance of the killings being carried out by small arms and weapons. Peacekeeping operations must prioritize counterproliferation, he said, expressing hope that “the sacrifices of

our fallen peacekeepers encourage our collective action on this issue”.

Also briefing the Council was Badreldin Elamin Abdelgadir, Executive Secretary of the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States, who enumerated the many factors contributing to the dangerous armed conflicts that raged in the region, including weak legislative policy, poor governance and economic marginalization. Pointing out that seven of the 13 current peacekeeping operations are in Africa, of which five are in the subregion covered by the Centre, he stressed: “Strengthening the fight against the proliferation of illicit weapons would go a long way in reducing the need for peace operations.”

In the ensuing discussion, many Council members took the floor to express concern about the continuing threats posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons to security, agreeing that it contributed to human rights abuses and exacerbated transnational organized crime and terrorism. Several commended regional efforts toward conflict prevention and arms control, such as the African Union’s “Silencing the Guns” initiative, while also emphasizing the importance of tackling the gender-dimension of the issue, given its impact on sexual and gender-based violence. Ireland’s representative was among the speakers who expressed concern about the disproportionate impact of the unchecked proliferation of such weapons on women and girls, which fuels gender-based violence and human trafficking in countries such as South Sudan and Somalia. The stark facts set out in the Secretary-General’s report highlight the importance of responding to the threat and doing so in a gender-sensitive manner, she stressed. She also underscored the need for sharing information to ensure effective weapons tracing and making use of regional leadership and engagement to address the issue.

In a similar vein, the representative of France noted the Council’s efforts to mark and trace stockpiles, adding that it could certainly do more. She called on States to join the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol, and encouraged them to also mark weapons and support the International Tracing Instrument. Moreover, she pointed out that the Council should update its sanctions regimes and address the problems posed by ammunition, and attendant risks such as theft and the manufacture of improvised explosive devices.

Meanwhile, the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines observed that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region continues to be severely impacted by irresponsible and illicit weapons flows, aided by permissive gun laws in many manufacturing countries, although the region does not manufacture or import small

arms and light weapons on a large scale. While commending such initiatives as the African Union's Silencing the Guns and the regional road map for the Western Balkans, she pointed out that such measures will be for naught if States that manufacture arms do not assume greater responsibility for the consequences of the trade of those weapons.

Kenya's representative, Council President for October, highlighted the strength of regional initiatives as exemplified by the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States. He called on the Council to lend support to Governments in affected areas to enhance their ability to monitor proliferation trends, reform the security sector, and implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in a coordinated manner. Strengthening the capacity of United Nations missions and Governments in weapons and ammunition management is critical to prevent the diversion and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, he emphasized.

#### Active measures-

Key documents drafted regarding illicit trade of arms (discusses the importance of each resolution)

##### 1. Resolution 2117-

regional cooperation, coordination, and information sharing mechanisms, in particular, transborder customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing, with a view to preventing, combating, and eradicating illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons; comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities, and relief consignments, and to take measures to eradicate the negative impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on humanitarian actors, and take all required steps to facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment, and personnel; implementation by States at the national, regional, and international levels, of the United Nations Programme of Action, to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely Manner, Illicit Small Arms, and Light Weapons, in particular, paying special attention to applying measures contained therein on the prevention of the diversion



of small arms and light weapons, in order to make real progress in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

2. Resolution 2220-

Counter-Terrorism Committee and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), within their existing mandates and in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to focus on Member States' capacities and needs to address the threats posed by the accessibility of weapons used by terrorists as well as to counter the supply and trafficking of weapons to terrorists

improving national implementation of Council-mandated arms embargoes and mandating United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant Council-mandated entities to assist in building national and regional capacities by States, in particular, related to transfer control systems, physical security and stockpile management, record-keeping, and preventing diversion of small arms and light weapons and related materiel to illicit markets, may contribute to more effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty by the States Parties;

3. Resolution 2370-

Enhance, as appropriate, international and regional cooperation regarding training on good practices, in coordination with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization;

counter-terrorism bodies, in particular CTED, as well as with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to maximize their efficiency;

Extension of the previous resolution, nothing new\*

4. Resolution 2457-

African Union's determination to rid Africa of conflicts and create conditions favorable for the growth, development, and integration of the continent is encapsulated in its goal of Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020;

The AU Member States to enhance good governance, including the elimination of corruption, strengthening of democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and accountability, and to redouble their efforts in economic development and the promotion of the well-being of their people;

COMPLETELY AU BASED

5. Resolution 2616-

The Member States, in particular those under Council-mandated arms embar-



goes, with the corresponding Panel of Experts, further stress the importance of allowing such Panels of Experts, whenever and wherever possible, to conduct inspections, or to be provided with samples, of seized military equipment transferred illicitly in contravention of the respective embargoes;  
s regional land, air, and maritime cooperation, as applicable, to detect and prevent violations of Council-mandated arms embargoes as well as to report cases of violations in a timely manner to the corresponding sanctions committees;

each arms embargo, arms, and related equipment of all types that are supplied, sold, or transferred as security or disarmament assistance under exemptions should not be resold to, transferred to, or in other ways made available for use by parties other than the designated end use;

the capacity of States under Council-mandated embargoes to exert effective control over their existing arms and ammunition stockpiles and future imports with a view to preventing such weapons from being diverted to the illicit market

IZUMI NAKAMITSU, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, introduced the Secretary-General's biennial report on small arms and light weapons (document S/2021/839), recalling that since the Security Council began considering the subject 12 years ago it has continued to recognize that illicit flows and excessive accumulation of such weapons compromise the effectiveness of its ability to maintain international peace and security. "The misuse, illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons, and their ammunition, remain a defining factor in undermining peace and security at the national, regional and global levels and have deeply aggravated situations for vulnerable populations already suffering from conflict," she said. Where peace operations are mandated, such flows can sustain conflict dynamics, render arms embargoes ineffective, endanger peacekeepers, aid workers and local populations, and complicate implementation of peace agreements. Against this backdrop, she commended the Council's increasing consideration of the issue in its work, as reflected in its inclusion of arms-related provisions in recent peace operation mandates in Abyei, Central African Republic, Haiti, Mali, Yemen, among other places.

Turning to conflict prevention, she encouraged the Council to integrate weapons and ammunition management considerations into its work, as poorly maintained stockpiles pose humanitarian hazards and are known sources of weapons diversion which impact peace in conflict and post-conflict settings. In this regard, she emphasized the importance of internationally recognized tools such as the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium, underscored in the publication

titled “Aide-Memoire: Options for Mainstreaming Weapons and Ammunition Management in decisions of the Security Council”, which has recently been updated and is now publicly available. She also encouraged the Council to integrate the consideration of weapons and ammunition into thematic as well as country-specific discussions, including in addressing the multifaceted threat of the arms-crime-terrorism nexus. Development and implementation of border security and management strategies as well as enhanced stockpile management are effective in disrupting the supply of such weapons to terrorists, she said. Moreover, thematic discussions on issues such as children in armed conflict and the women, peace and security agenda are also important opportunities to reflect on convergence with small arms-related issues as part of the Council’s programme of work, she continued, adding that conventional arms control, including small arms and light weapons control measures, are relevant to all four pillars of the agenda — participation, protection, prevention and relief and recovery, including in contexts of conflict-related sexual violence. This convergence can be strengthened by integrating the collection and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data on small arms and light weapons in related mandates, lending support to civil society organizations, and encouraging States to streamline national action plans and ensure more active exchange of information.

Regarding the growing threat of illicit reactivation of poorly deactivated small arms, she noted that the United Nations has issued specific guidance in a dedicated module of the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium. She noted a shift in the purchases of weapons and their components through the darknet, which poses difficulties to their detection and criminal investigation, and called for the early adoption of measures to address such emerging challenges so that small arms control remains effective.

Noting that a deeper institutional understanding is needed to tackle the threat of small arms and light weapons and develop comprehensive solutions to address them, she went on to spotlight a number of initiatives, including system-wide guidance on country-level approaches to integrate small arms control into the Common Country Analysis and sustainable development frameworks, developed by partners of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, and the Saving Lives Entity, an immediate response facility within the Peacebuilding Fund, which has begun the allocation of grants to catalyse more comprehensive approaches to small arms control and armed violence reduction efforts in several countries.

BADRELDIN ELAMIN ABDELGADIR, Executive Secretary, Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States, said

that the Nairobi-based Centre was established in 2005 as a regional institution with a sole mandate of fighting against small arms proliferation that was required to coordinate implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States the Nairobi Protocol — which was signed by 12 States in April 2004.

He pointed to the many drivers of the spread of illicit weapons in the subregion, including weak legislative and policy frameworks in many countries, as well as out-dated arms management and control legislation out of step with current realities and the existing small arms instruments. Weak physical security and management of State-held weapons also results in proliferation. Internal political dynamics, the struggle for political power through illegal means and bad governance may politically motivate arms supply. Ungoverned spaces drive demand for illicit small arms and light weapons by individuals seeking to guard their lives and properties. Moreover, economic marginalization may lead to youth radicalization and violent extremism which fuel the demand for illegal weapons.

As a result, in the past two decades, the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa have experienced some of the most dangerous armed conflicts in Africa, he said, noting that of the 13 current peacekeeping operations, seven are in Africa of which five are in the subregion covered by the Centre. “The strengthened fight against the proliferation of illicit weapons in its totality would go a long way in reducing the need for peace operations”, he stressed. Before peacekeepers are deployed, illicit small arms and light weapons already circulate in the conflict-affected areas. United Nations missions’ mandates should include interventions aimed at severing illicit firearm sources. He also suggested predeployment measures, such as training in weapons and ammunitions management; marking and electronic record keeping of all weapons to be used in the mission; continued accountability measures for all mission stockpiles; effective management or destruction of all collected small arms and light weapons during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process; and continued efforts to raise public awareness in conflict areas about the bad effects of small arms proliferation.

While peace operations’ technical support to local law enforcement agencies is paramount to enhance weapons management, the inclusion of weapons management training component during troop pre-deployment is highly recommended, he said. The tools and mechanisms are already in place. They include, at the international level, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade

in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the International Tracing Instrument, and the Arms Trade Treaty; continental frameworks, such as the Bamako Declaration and the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative; as well as sub-regional accords, such as the Nairobi Protocol. Major gaps must be addressed, including domesticating the existing small arms control instruments within the national legislation and providing adequate human and financial resources to implement them. In this regard, the Centre's expertise and experience can be used to spearhead the fight against small arms proliferation on the African continent.

Arms control programming is not a stand-alone issue, he said, stressing that it is closely linked to poverty reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, it is vital to package arms control interventions within the wider development programming as there is a link between sustainable development and security. Peace operations relate to full-blown conflict with formal warring parties but small arms proliferation goes beyond this context to lower-level transnational organized armed crime which affects human security, he said, stressing the need to support the Centre in carrying out its mandates.

DAVID LOCHHEAD, Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, said that his 15 years in peacekeeping operations had demonstrated to him that the unchecked proliferation of arms, ammunitions and explosives poses one of the greatest challenges to peacekeeping today. In 2018, he chaired a Board of Inquiry into the death of his friend and former colleague, Captain Christophe Tangaou Massamaesso of the Togolese armed forces, who was killed by small arms fire in 2017 while deployed in Mali with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Weapons and ammunition analysis showed that the attack that killed his colleague was also materially linked to three other attacks, including on the MINUSMA base in Timbuktu, which killed 28 people in a 24-hour-period, he said, adding that arms, ammunition and explosives are important evidence that must contribute to justice for such crimes, in line with Council resolution 2589 (2021), which promotes accountability for acts of violence against peacekeepers. Research and analysis of such weapons are critical to all aspects of mandate implementation, including reducing threats to peacekeeping staff.

In response to a question posed by the Council on trends in the proliferation of such weapons, he described his observations from the dynamics of arms proliferation where peacekeeping operations are conducted, noting that the availability of legacy weapons and ammunition to armed groups can be attributed to historical regional conflict, which causes them to remain in circulation for decades and trafficked



across borders. Moreover, he pointed out that when the Department of Peace Operations is deployed in asymmetrical conflicts, as in Mali, improvised explosive devices have a devastating effect, accounting for almost 60 per cent of United Nations fatalities from malicious acts in MINUSMA, “the United Nations’ deadliest peacekeeping operations”, while the balance of killings have largely been carried out by small arms and light weapons. He enumerated other factors that allow such weapons to spread and impact peacekeeping operations, including the looting of massive stockpiles in contexts such as Libya, the spread of craft-produced firearms, and sporting firearms, and the diversion of commercial explosives which supplies bomb-building networks across the Sahel subregion.

Turning to regional and global mechanisms that can bolster arms control in conflict-affected situations, he stressed the need to strengthen counter-trafficking approaches informed by baseline research and data collection, noting that the lack of a regional approach has failed to curb hostile actors’ access to illicit weapons. He said peacekeeping operations should develop protocols to feed into global law enforcement and customs operations supported by such bodies as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), as well as the work of arms embargo monitoring expert panels, by adopting new data-sharing platforms. Further, the use of new technology could amplify and simplify the collection, analysis and sharing of such data, which, combined with new reporting mechanisms, could better inform the Council on global trends in illicit trafficking.

In conclusion, he suggested several innovations and improvements to peacekeeping operations, including the development and field-testing of advanced data collection tools for peacekeepers to identify and trace illicit materials, improved weapons intelligence capabilities of troop contributors, and the conceptualization of regional approaches to improve trafficking intelligence sharing to inform national and regional responses to the proliferation of arms, ammunition and explosives. Placing counter-proliferation back into a central role within peacekeeping operations would improve mandate implementation and protect United Nations staff, as well as contribute to reaching Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4, he said, adding that he hoped that “the sacrifices of our fallen peacekeepers encourage our collective action on this issue”.

Statements



DINH QUY DANG (Viet Nam) said the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons continues to fuel conflict and hamper recovery and socioeconomic development, remaining a threat that could even undermine the mandate of Council-authorized missions. Addressing this requires joint efforts of all parties to combat arms trafficking, with States bearing the primary responsibility to strengthen national efforts and with regional and international groups playing their role. In addition, the Council must address the illicit trade issue in a contextual manner, he said, commending the 9 of 12 peacekeeping operations whose mandates permit efforts related to arms control and management. He called for more support for these missions so they can better assist host countries in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction. Indeed, in post-conflict situations, efforts to combat the illicit arms trade must continue, including security sector reform, managing and controlling weapons, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. He also called on stakeholders to address the root causes of conflict, including inequality and neglect of international law.

JUAN RAMÓN DE LA FUENTE RAMIREZ (Mexico), said his delegation organized a related Arria-formula meeting on small arms and light weapons proliferation in September and intends to follow up on this topic during its Council Presidency in November. The Council must conduct a critical and objective analysis of the tangible impact of small arms and light weapons and call more strongly for the fulfilment of agreed commitments. The Council's attention on the subject has been largely directed to promoting and strengthening schemes for weapons and ammunition management, but this is just one component within a much broader sphere, he said, pointing to the need to study the entire life cycle of weapons encompassing production, transfer and end use. Mexico strongly supports the recommendation on effective border controls, which must be comprehensive. The mandates of peacekeeping missions and the renewal of sanctions regimes must reflect the realities on the ground. Noting the disproportionate impact on women and children, he expressed support for the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on the need to strengthen capacities in peace operations, including components devoted to the issue of small arms.

TAREK LADEB (Tunisia) noting that small arms and light weapons are often the direct cause of fatalities among peacekeepers, called on the Council to address the issues related to their illicit transfer and use. Voicing support for regional efforts for conflict prevention and arms control, such as the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative, he stressed the importance of incorporating the gender dimension, and recognizing that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is

a key part of combating gender-based violence. His country does not produce or export weapons of any kind, he said, adding that the Arms Trade Treaty can significantly contribute to finding adequate solutions to the illicit trade in conventional weapons.

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS (United States) said peacekeeping operations present unique challenges in the domain, including managing large caches of weapons seized from former combatants. He noted that in attacks in Sierra Leone in early 2000, the Revolutionary United Front captured 5,000 arms, while the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and MINUSMA also suffered weapon seizures. While the United Nations has made strides in small arms and light weapons management in peacekeeping operations, he said in-mission protocols are unevenly applied, with active combatants reclaiming armaments, threatening United Nations personnel and the civilians they are mandated to protect. Protocols in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration manual must be operationalized and updated. He noted the United States partnered with the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States on improving accountability of stockpiles and training 500 store keepers. Efforts included building new armouries, providing 1,500 weapons lockers and facilitating the destruction of thousands of arms and tons of ammunition.

SHERAZ GASRI (France) said the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons feeds conflict, crime and terrorism "and we have all paid the price and will continue to do so." The Security Council has played its role, marking and tracing stockpiles, but she noted it could certainly do more. Calling on States to join the Arms Trade Treaty and Firearms Protocol, she encouraged them to also mark weapons and support the International Tracing Instrument. The Council should update its sanctions regimes, and it is also important to address the problem of ammunition, which presents specific risks including theft and the manufacture of improvised explosive devices. She highlighted that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other organizations and regional blocs are adapting to realities on the ground, and the Council and international community must help them build capacity in that area. That is the purpose of the Franco-German initiative to coordinate the fight against firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans, she noted.

T. S. TIRUMURTI (India), stressing that the primary responsibility for addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons lies with Member States, said the Council must address the danger posed by such illicit transfers to the safety of

peacekeepers. Arms embargos are an important tool at the disposal of the Council, he said, voicing concern that they continue to be blatantly violated. Peacekeeping missions could support host countries by strengthening the capacities of the law enforcement and security agencies in safe handling, upkeep and stockpile management of arms and weapons, he said, also highlighting the increase in volume and the quality of the arsenal acquired by terrorist organizations.

DMITRY A. POLYANSKIY (Russian Federation) said his delegation understands that today's discussion is taking place in the context of peacekeeping, not as a disarmament story. The Secretary-General's biennial report should devote more attention to the peacekeeping aspect of the topic. The existing mechanisms in this arena, such as the Programme of Action, should be better reflected in the report. The presence of many uncontrolled small arms and light weapons not only hinders the security of civilians and peacekeeping missions, but also diminishes the possibility of ending armed confrontation and creating conditions towards reconciliation. The responsibility for controlling small arms and light weapons lies with the Governments of the countries where those weapons are located. In this regard, he underscored the need to revise the sanctions regimes against certain countries, such as in the Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, so that States can properly be armed and prepared to maintain the rule of law. Bringing sustainable development, gender or climate change into the Council discussion on this topic does not add any value, since the General Assembly is the priority platform for discussing small arms and light weapons in the broader context. Ensuring the safety of stockpiles and the destruction of its surplus are the prerogative of the States themselves and an integral part of their sovereignty, he said.

SVEN JÜRGENSON (Estonia) noted that various United Nations peace operations, such as those in Haiti, Sudan and Mali, are mandated to support weapons management in the context of community violence reduction, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and security sector reform programmes. Welcoming that the United Nations Mine Action Service is also often an integrated component of such missions, he asked the Security Council to include the tasks of record-keeping and weapons tracing more systematically in peace operations' mandates, in line with international instruments and standards. He also called for strengthening cooperation and information-sharing between peace operations and panels of experts, noting that the systematic collection and analysis of data on seized, found and surrendered weapons can provide important information about sources and supply chains of armed actors. Estonia supports the Secretary-General's recommendation to consider the establishment or designation of a unit or cell within a peace mission with

respective expertise and skills.

JAMES PAUL ROSCOE (United Kingdom) drew attention to ongoing efforts to curb arms trafficking and to control the legal weapons trade. Highlighting such recent achievements as the Biennial Meetings of States on the Programme of Action on Small Arms, he also noted the United Kingdom's support for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), including a risk analysis toolkit to strengthen understanding on how conventional arms control can contribute to conflict prevention, management and resolution. Expressing support for the Secretary-General's report on children affected by armed conflict and the gender dimensions of gun trafficking, he said such initiatives are in line with the Arms Trade Treaty, which remains a key multilateral tool to ensure a well-regulated legal weapons trade. Such regional approaches as the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative and the Western Balkans road map are making inroads, he said, adding that the United Kingdom is leading a review of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) best practice guidance on stockpile management while continuing to support efforts to address the risk of ammunition stockpiles and other key areas.

GERALDINE BYRNE NASON (Ireland) said the stark facts underlined by the Secretary-General's report, including that small arms and light weapons facilitate more human rights abuses than any other weapon, underlined the importance of addressing the threat. She said the Council must consistently and systematically scrutinize the impact of these weapons as drivers of conflict. Peace operations mandated by the Council have a crucial role to play in this regard. She went on to underscore the importance of effectively managing and processing weapons and ammunition stockpiles, building the capacity of host States, and making use of regional leadership and engagement in addressing the issue. Moreover, she highlighted the importance of information-sharing to ensure effective weapons tracing. Turning to the women, peace and security agenda, she said the proliferation of such weapons negatively impacts the security of women and girls in countries like Somalia and South Sudan, facilitating violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking. This is "unconscionable" and highlights the need for a gender-sensitive response to the issue, she said.

INGA RHONDA KING (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said CARICOM recognizes the need for mechanisms to protect its people. Even though the region does not manufacture or import small arms and light weapons on a large scale, it continues to be severely impacted by irresponsible and illicit weapons flows, aided by permissive



gun laws in many manufacturing countries. CARICOM has therefore accelerated the road map for implementing measures against the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition across the region by 2030. Expressing firm support for the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative and the regional road map for the Western Balkans, she stressed that these efforts, however, will all be for naught if States that manufacture arms do not assume greater responsibility for the consequences of the trade of those weapons. Undoubtedly, domestic policies can have harmful implications beyond borders. The misuse of small arms and light weapons continues to hinder the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, she said, sounding the alarm on the high number of grave violations against children, as well as the serious threat posed to women and girls, all linked to the use of small arms and light weapons.

GENG SHUANG (China) stressed that States bear the primary responsibility to manage small arms and light weapons through such measures as stronger border controls and regulating the flow of such weapons within their borders. He insisted that United Nations peace operations should use new technologies to carry out its mandates effectively and monitor the flow of weapons. Highlighting the need to address "triggers" of the proliferation of small weapons and light weapons, he said promoting development and eradicating poverty are key to solving the problem. China announced the global development initiative at the General Assembly last month, he said, encouraging States to join this effort. For its part, China has joined the Arms Trade Treaty and enhanced domestic measures.

ABDOU ABARRY (Niger) said the proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to heavily impact peace and security in all regions of the world and remains a major challenge to peacebuilding objectives. He underscored the need for specialized training on weapons management before the deployment of "Blue Helmets", and for the prevention of traffic in such weapons through strengthened border monitoring and the implementation of relevant conventions. Further, the capacity of host countries must be strengthened to facilitate the proper management of stockpiles, he said. Commending international support lent to national and regional efforts to strengthen arms control, including to the Silencing the Guns initiative, he noted that since 1994, Niger's National Commission for the Collection and Control of Small Arms has helped to curtail their proliferation despite difficulties posed by the country's porous borders. The impact of the Libyan crisis on the Sahel region illustrates what can happen when such weapons are allowed to proliferate, he said. He went on to observe that women and children are the first victims of violence from the unchecked flow of such weapons, and must necessarily be involved in strategies to



combat the phenomenon.

TRINE SKARBOEVIK HEIMERBACK (Norway) said illicit flows of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition threaten both civilians living in conflict areas and the peacekeepers who risk their lives to protect them. Children are disproportionately affected, left vulnerable to injury, displacement and death, as well as recruitment in armed conflict. She encouraged the Member States to support mainstreaming small arms measures in other thematic areas, including protection of civilians, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian assistance. The Security Council must also integrate weapons and ammunition management as a key pillar to support peace processes, with special emphasis on robust physical security and stockpile management. Expressing support for peace and reconciliation efforts, she said conflict parties will be less prone to resort to armed violence if they are involved in a constructive political process. Noting positive developments at the Seventh Biennial Meeting on Small Arms and the Seventh Conference of State Parties under the Arms Trade Treaty, she pointed to such models as the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and the Bordering States and the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative.

MARTIN KIMANI (Kenya), Council President for October, spoke in his national capacity, outlining collective efforts required to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Calling for a comprehensive architecture jointly built by the relevant United Nations organs and agencies, regional and subregional organizations as well as civil society, he highlighted the strength of regional initiatives as exemplified by the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and the Bordering States. The African Union's Silencing the Guns and other regional initiatives should also be supported. He went on to ask the Security Council to emphasize support to Governments in affected areas for enhanced capacity in monitoring proliferation trends, undertaking security sector reforms, and the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs in a coordinated manner. The strengthening of the capacity of United Nations missions and Governments in weapons and ammunition management is critical to the prevention of diversion and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, he emphasized.

## Conclusion

The Security Council—the primary organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security—remains actively seized of the

small arms and light weapons challenge. It has addressed small arms and light weapons-related issues across its agenda, from Security Sector Reform to arms embargoes to counter-terrorism and sustaining peace, while also treating these matters in country-specific and regionally-focused contexts. Illicit arms flows continue to promote conflicts in many African countries, from petty crime to insurgencies and terrorist activities. The data collected in the analysis aims to highlight how illegal small arms and ammunition flows can be identified and broken down, providing entry points to intercept and halt the trade. The illicit weapons trade in small arms has been at least partially blamed for the persistence of wars across the African continent. International efforts have been relentlessly established to curb this issue, however, it does not seem to end. Powerful states keep trading illegally to militias, indirectly furthering their causes. If not stopped and solved, this illegal trade will lead to global imbalance as unarmed civilians would be left to die; armies would constantly be fighting militias, destabilizing their countries further.

Is the committee prepared for implementing better solutions to stop this trade? Will this trade continue as it is? Will the world move towards international gun control laws or make its manufacturing public? Or is the committee going to form solutions never thought of before?

The United Nations Security Council must be prepared to counter this problem caused by the most powerful nations on the planet.

#### Key Words/Glossary-

1. Veto- a constitutional right to reject a decision or proposal made by a lawmaking body.
2. member States- States which are members of the United Nations Organization, and thereby have accepted all the obligations contained in the UN Charter.
3. Security Council- One of the principal organs of the UN, the Security Council has primary responsibility under the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.
4. Illicit trade- Illicit trade is the production or distribution of a good or service that is considered illegal by a legislature
5. Arms and Ammunition- the material fired, scattered, dropped, or detonated from any weapon, such as bombs or rockets, and especially shot, shrapnel, bullets, or shells fired by guns
6. Proxy War- a war instigated by a major power that does not itself become involved.

7. Civil Wars- a war between citizens of the same country.
8. Militias- a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency
9. Convention- an agreement between states covering particular matters, especially one less formal than a treaty
10. Brainwashing- a forcible indoctrination to induce someone to give up basic political, social, or religious beliefs and attitudes and to accept contrasting regimented ideas.

**\*Please keep in mind that since the UNSC will be a simulated crisis committee, there will be additional research guides and updates provided to the delegates. Kindly be updated on the same\***