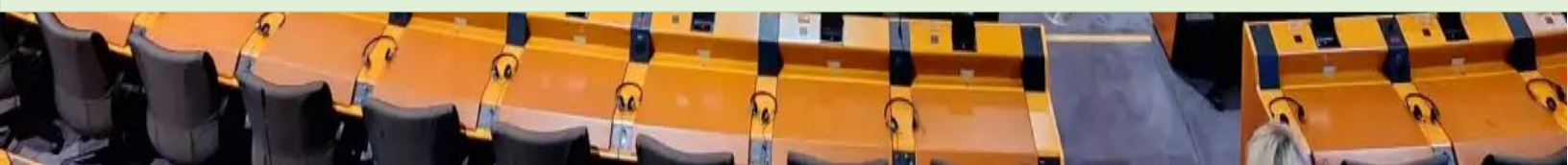




General Assembly 1

Topic 1: Tackling Uncontrolled Arms Trafficking and its Destabilizing Impact in the Western Balkans.

President: Amro Abu-Libbeh



President's Letter

Dear Delegates of The First General Assembly,

I am honoured to welcome you to our committee,

This committee serves as a platform for delegates to discuss urgent international issues and topics that require immediate attention. The General Assembly is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and plays a vital role in addressing urgent issues. Each one of you will represent member states of this esteemed committee, and you will also be the voice of the millions of people who don't have their own.

Throughout these three days, whether you are a first timer or an experienced MUN participant, I expect that you will demonstrate your debating, critical thinking, and collaboration skills with your fellow delegates. You will learn how to critique proposed resolutions, enhance your debating, and ultimately challenge yourself to become political enthusiasts and excellent debaters.

Delegates, I want you to step out of your comfort zones, explore the MUN world, seize this opportunity, and indulge in heated and meaningful debate and discussion. What we discuss in this committee can be the next step to a better tomorrow, a better world where no one is labelled by race, colour, or status, one step closer to equality. Seize this opportunity and become true citizens of the world who contribute to global peace.

With that being said, my name is Amro Abu Libbeh, President of The First General Assembly at The Modern Montessori Model United Nations, and I am honoured to be your president for this year. I wish you all the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Amro Abu-Libbeh

President of The First General Assembly



Introduction to the Committee

As the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the First General Assembly is the primary body responsible for addressing issues of disarmament and international peace and security. This committee is unique as it deals directly with disarmament, global security challenges, and the regulation of weapons at both regional and international levels. It lays the foundation for peace and stability and strives for inclusivity and fairness.

The importance of General Assembly 1 lies in its role as a forum; it addresses pressing security concerns on an equal footing. This committee is not merely about preventing the escalation of armed conflict, but also about building trust, reducing tensions, and fostering cooperation between nations.

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Terminology

- **Arms Trafficking:** The illegal trade, transport, or distribution of firearms and other weapons, often conducted across national borders.
- **Uncontrolled Arms:** Weapons that are not subject to adequate regulation, registration, or oversight by national or international authorities.
- **Illicit Networks:** Organized groups or transnational systems engaged in illegal activities such as arms smuggling, drug trafficking, or money laundering. These networks often operate covertly across borders.
- **Post-Conflict Environment:** The fragile social, political, and economic conditions that exist after the end of an armed conflict.
- **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW):** Portable firearms and weapons designed for individual or small-group use, including pistols, rifles, grenades, and machine guns.

History

Following the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1991, countless brutal conflicts broke out in the Western Balkan region, including but not limited to war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo. In this era, ethnic tensions fueled as global politics fragmented.

Long after the conflict ended, hundreds of thousands of citizens were either killed or displaced; a large, unsecured stockpile of weapons was left behind. Warzones containing these weapons became a major source of illicit arms trade. Despite foreign intervention from world powers, the Western Balkan region remains politically unstable, dominated by organized crime networks. Illegal arms trafficking poses critical security challenges both within the region and across the European Union.

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Current Situation

The Western Balkans remains the most impacted region by the unregulated illicit arms trade following the fall of the former Yugoslavia. A significant amount of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) remain unauthorized by the federal government, scattered across the territories of Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

The dismissal of such illegal commerce motivates criminal organizations to continue their unlawful practices, threatening the safety of the nation and fueling regional political upheaval. Due to insecure borders, unstable governmental institutions, and the lack of efficient implementation against illegal arms trafficking, this issue remains widespread and especially complicated in the Western Balkan region.

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Parties involved

- **Governments of Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Albania:** These governments are responsible for enacting and enforcing legislation to combat arms trafficking, strengthen border control, and improve law enforcement cooperation. However, limited resources and corruption often hinder their ability to fully contain the illicit trade in weapons.
- **Regional Cooperation Council (RCC):** Facilitates collaboration among Balkan states to prevent and reduce the proliferation of illegal firearms.
- **Police forces and border guards:** Serve as the front line in combating arms smuggling. They conduct border inspections, monitor checkpoints, and intercept illegal arms shipments, though they often face challenges related to inadequate training, limited equipment, and cross-border corruption.
- **The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):** The UNODA assists governments in developing legislation, reporting illicit arms flows, and aligning national policies with international disarmament standards.
- **The European Union (EU):** Provides financial and technical assistance to strengthen border management, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and

improve arms-tracking mechanisms. The EU also funds programs that promote disarmament, community security, and good governance in the Western Balkans.

- **Civil Society Organizations:** These organizations play a crucial role in monitoring arms trafficking, raising public awareness, and supporting victims of gun-related violence (Ex: The Balkan Trust for Democracy).



Guiding Questions

- How do regional conflicts relate to the underlying reasons for weaponry proliferation in the Western Balkans?
- What links exist between the region's illegal arms trafficking networks and European organized crime and terrorism?
- What part can regional institutions like the EU, OSCE, and SEESAC, as well as the UN, play in bolstering weapons control frameworks?
- How can the region's states enhance their programs for destruction, arms collection, and border management?
- How much should cross-border police training, judicial cooperation, and intelligence sharing be a part of international cooperation?
- How can disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR)-style programs involve local communities?
- When combating arms trafficking, how can state sovereignty be respected while maintaining regional security?

Helpful Resources

<https://www.seesac.org>

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/salw-roadmap-western-balkans_en

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/105917>

<https://www.smallarmssurvey.org>

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu>

<https://www.interpol.int>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/firearms-protocol.html>



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