



# Study Guide

## Disarmament and International Security Committee



### Agenda:

Reducing Terrorism by Eliminating Funding,  
Manufacturing and Trade  
of Illicit Weapons

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## LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,

Namaste

It is our great honor to welcome you all to the first Shishukunj North Campus Model United Nations. In the committee of the DISEC, we look forward to discussing the agenda “Reducing Terrorism by Eliminating Funding Manufacturing And Trade Of Illicit Weapons”. The above-mentioned agenda is among the most pressing issues faced by people on a global scale. It focuses on addressing one of the most important root causes of terrorism in the modern world and revolves around other key factors influencing the same. We hope each delegate recognizes the severity of the problem and its impact on innumerable countries. Delegates are expected to know these problems and previous actions taken upon the same and critically analyze them to further improve them and come up with new and practical solutions.

Through this guide, we hope to lay the substratum of the agenda to provide the basis for an informative and deliberative committee. Through the length of the guide, we have aimed to simplify all topics in the best possible manner for a clear understanding of all matters revolving around the agenda. However, one must remember this is only the tip of the iceberg with each delegate having to research on their own through a plethora<sup>1</sup> of information. All delegates are expected to have a deep and clear understanding of the agenda as well as their portfolios and shouldn't restrain themselves from going further with the matters of the guide but make sure to not deviate from the agenda and the sub-topics that are planned on being dealt with.

Delegates must avoid the use of ChatGPT and other such AI Platforms in speeches and are expected to have their original research and form creative solutions, plagiarism will not be tolerated in the committee.

Delegates must also realize that this is a learning opportunity and participate enthusiastically to refine their interpersonal, communication, and public speaking skills through the course of the committee. They should make use of their negotiating and diplomatic skills to persuade and lobby with other delegates to represent their country's

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<sup>1</sup> Plethora- usually more than is needed or can be used



stance and foreign policy and look forward to making solutions that align best with their country's interests. It must also be noted that the case studies mentioned in the guide are only for the better understanding of delegates.

We couldn't be more excited to meet you all in person and assure each delegate that the committee will be quite enriching and fun. All the best!

Chairperson: Avani Shrivastava

Vice Chairperson: Kruti Shah

Rapporteur: Avi Ladha



## COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was established as the first Committee in the General Assembly, in the United Nations Charter of 1945. As a result, the First Committee is frequently referred to as DISEC. DISEC was established in response to the requirement for an international forum for international community members to discuss issues of peace and security. According to the UN Charter, The DISEC as a part of the General Assembly is to make recommendations and general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments.

It acts as the international body that acts as a platform for several negotiations, discussions, and advocacy to deliberate upon problems revolving around disarmament, global challenges, and threats posed upon international peace.

DISEC also takes part in various initiatives to advance global security and peace. The committee aims to bring into recognition the internally displaced people as well as the rights of women and children in conflict circumstances. Additionally, DISEC takes part in initiatives that support environmental preservation and sustainable development.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

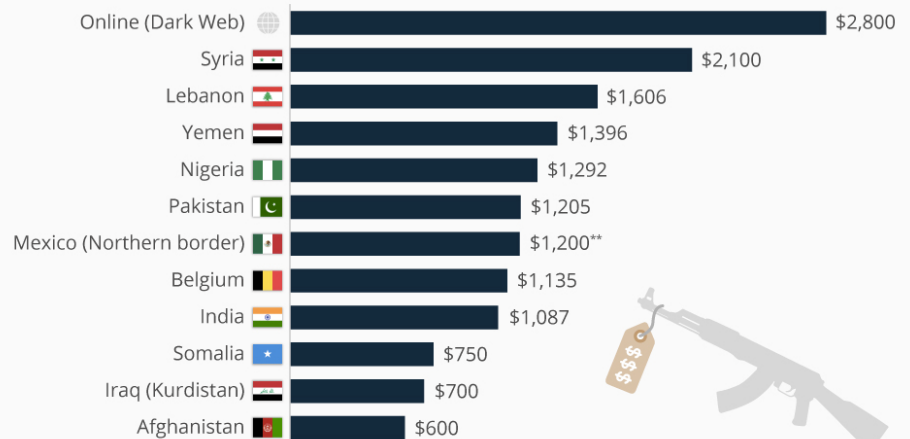
The world around us is constantly evolving, creating several complications along the way, and among the innumerable issues it faces, the crisis that needs immediate attention is the funding, manufacturing, and trading of illicit weapons which is a root cause of one of the biggest problems faced in the modern era, terrorism. Today, illegal arms trade engenders between 125 million EUR to 236 million

EUR per year globally, which represents between 10% to 20% of the total trade in legal firearms, this is a significant number, showing the severity of the situation and is only increasing each year.

The trafficking of firearms is influenced by several key features, ranging from funding, and manufacturing to trading. There is a huge spectrum of such weapons in the market currently, the most common being the small arms and light weapons (SALW), in the year 2015 alone it was estimated that about 640 million SALW were in circulation, which accounts for 1 illegal firearm in every 11 people in the regions under the United Nations. Such activities have a heavy impact on society too, the continual presence of this unlawful ammunition is a threat to the health, safety, security, and development of nations. The biggest difficulty that arises here is that these weapons help fuel the growth of piracy, organized crime, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and terrorism. The above-mentioned activities are often closely linked to corruption and ineffective management techniques. We here in Disec plan on dealing with how to bring about solutions to all these global problems of terrorism and weaponry through substantial changes.

### The Cost Of An AK-47 On The Black Market

Average cost of an illegally-acquired AK-47 worldwide\*



\* Lowest average cost. Selected countries (2011-2013).

\*\* Price for a legitimate model.

A locally produced version can be procured for \$148



@StatistaCharts

Source: Global Financial Integrity

statista

## PAST RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Firearms Protocols

The only legally binding instrument to combat the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition on a global scale is the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol) which was passed in 2001.

The Firearms Protocol grants States a framework for managing legally obtained weapons and armaments movements, preventing their smuggling into illicit markets, and facilitating the investigation and prosecution of associated offenses without impeding lawful transfers.

States commit to implementing and executing into practice a series of crime-control measures by ratifying or adhering to the Firearms Protocol. These measures include:

- a) establishing the illegal manufacture and trafficking of guns as a crime under the Protocol's specifications and definitions
- b) implementing strong security and control measures, such as disposing of firearms, to avoid their theft and diversion into the illicit circuit
- c) ensuring that firearms are properly marked, recorded, and traced and that there is robust international cooperation for this purpose.

### 2. Arms Trade Treaty

The treaty is a binding agreement that establishes rules for international trade as well as controls the arms trade. It was implemented on 24 December 2014. Its motive is to command those countries to "layout and keep a public control framework, including a public control list" and "assign skilled public experts to have a compelling and straightforward public control framework managing the exchange of regular arms" to control the progression of weapons across their lines. Additionally, transfers that do not adhere to the convention's rules are prohibited.

The ATT aims to prevent such transfers and encourage accountability, responsibility, and transparency in the international arms trade. As a result, it will help lessen the suffering of the millions of civilians who are impacted by armed conflict and violence.





The convention has been approved by more than a hundred nations, and numerous have signed it formally. Among these are the United States and Russia, two of the largest arms exporters in the world.

Despite being a step in the right direction, the ATT leaves a lot of room for self-serving interpretations and applications by State Parties.

### **3. The United Nations Program of Action**

A universally accepted framework for actions to combat the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons and regulate the harmful effects of small arms and light weapons is the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illegal Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA).

The implementation of the PoA is judged based on national reports submitted by the Member States. Since the PoA's adoption in 2001, 28 nations from the Asia and Pacific regions have submitted national implementation plans. China and Japan have reported their progress six times, which is the highest number of reports submitted by any state in Asia, while Australia is the only state to have submitted a report every year. The data acquired from the studies highlight the importance of coordinating the efforts of the many government departments tasked with solving these issues. Strengthening regional customs, law enforcement, and intelligence cooperation through already-existing regional forums like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and other pertinent <sup>2</sup>regional organizations is crucial for effectively implementing the PoA's provisions.

Many of the PoA's commitments are unlimited, even though it addresses a wide variety of subjects and minor weapons control measures. They list several important goals, but they rarely detail the precise steps that governments must take to achieve them.

According to the PoA, states shall implement sufficient laws, rules, and administrative processes to exert effective control over the manufacture of small arms and light weapons as well as over their export, import, transit, or retransfer.

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<sup>2</sup> Pertinent- closely connected with the subject being discussed





#### **4. International Tracing Instrument (ITI)**

With the establishment of the International Tracing Instrument for Small Arms (ITI), UN Member States made a significant practical advancement toward disarmament in 2005. This international agreement requires all countries to label their firearms with unique numbers or marks so Interpol can locate them if necessary.

The ITI requires the marking of existing small arms already in State stockpiles, and of new guns at the point of manufacture or import. States must keep accurate and comprehensive records of small arms in their jurisdictions. The implementation of these measures will advance disarmament by allowing police to retrace the history of a gun recovered on the scene of a crime or conflict, and thus identify the dealer, factory, or armory from which the weapon was diverted. This improves the chances of finding and prosecuting the trafficker, and of closing any legal or procedural loopholes which may have enabled the diversion. Thus the ITI is both a tool for punishing criminals and for preventing the growth of the illegal small arms stockpile. Despite all of the UN's efforts, the production of weapons has surged, leading to displacement, fatalities, and psychological suffering. It is a global problem, and to keep the peace between nations, it is crucial to find the source of illegal trafficking and enact stringent laws that forbid the unauthorized use of SALWs.

## KEY WORDS

- **Anti-Money Laundering(AML)**-AML measures are put in place to prevent criminals and terrorists from taking advantage of the financial system.
- **Ouster**-the act of removing someone from office or a position of authority
- **Backed government**-referring to businesses and other organizations that get funding or support from the government
- **UNDP( The United Nations Development Programme)**-collaborates with individuals at all societal levels to create countries that can withstand crisis
- **EUCPN**-The EUCPN is the European Crime Prevention Network. The Network aims to connect the local, national, and European levels and to promote crime prevention knowledge and practices among the EU Member States.
- **BANDITRY**-it is a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence.
- **Artisanal weapons**-Artisanal weapons are homemade crafted weapons, usually produced by local blacksmiths or small enterprises.
- **Stockpiles**-a large accumulated stock of goods or materials(here weapons)
- **Insurgency**-an active revolt or uprising

## FUNDING

Terrorist groups require money to sustain themselves and carry out such devastating acts. Any crime that gives out profits can be used to finance terrorism.

Illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking, corruption, and others, tend to cause a high level of advantage for certain individuals or groups carrying out funding. However, by using funds for such criminal activities, criminals risk drawing the authorities' attention and exposing themselves to criminal execution.

Terrorist financing involves the plea, collection, or provision of funds with the intention that they may be used to support terrorist acts or organizations. Funds may be stalked by both legal and illicit sources.

It is frequently necessary to transfer money across or within jurisdictions to finance terrorist activities.

Worldwide, the revenues from criminal activities including extortion, drug and arms trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, and corruption continue to be a major source of income for both terrorists and terrorist groups in general.

Therefore, a key element of global strategies in the war on terrorism is combating the financing of terrorists.

Counter-terrorist financing (CTF), or combating the financing of terrorism (CFT), seeks to stop the flow of illegal funds to terrorist organizations. Anti-money laundering (AML) is strongly related to it.

Terrorist organizations need financial support to maintain a successful financial infrastructure to achieve their aims. That according to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, an individual commits the crime of financing terrorism “if that person by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used

Terrorist financing process



or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, to carry out” an offense within the scope of the Convention.

### **Non-State:**

Non-state funding refers to the funding of organizations that have no direct link with, directed by, or funded through the government or any officially recognized body, these vary from paramilitary<sup>3</sup> to resistance groups. There are a few key reasons in the recent past that have resulted in these actions. The most important was The Cold War and its aftermath, during the after currents of the war, the international environment was largely shaped by the danger of nuclear war and wars in the proxy countries of the two superpowers. The weapons used in these proxy battles were primarily disseminated in conflict-ridden regions in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. They were produced in areas that would subsequently become independent countries. After the Cold War, high levels of production would result in surpluses of weapons in both the producing and consuming nations, providing corrupt authorities with enormous profit margins through the illegal sale of surplus weapons to end users. It is estimated that the illegal arms trade, which supplies most weapons to non-state actors, represents approximately fifteen to twenty percent of total arms transfers, or approximately USD 6 billion.

These illicit transfers to non-state actors thus represent a complex problem. The central and local governments of the nations where these organizations operate frequently lack the ability to dismantle the organizations and therefore rely on outside aid. Governments have mostly used military force to combat these groups in the past; In the end, violent non-state actors not only endanger human rights but also the stability of national governments and international security when they go uncontested or are unsuccessfully opposed.

### **State Sponsored Terrorism**

State-sponsored terrorism is defined as acts of terrorism committed by governments, as well as acts of terrorism that are perpetrated directly by, or supported by, an established government of a state (country), as well as acts of terrorism committed by a government against its citizens or in support of international terrorism.

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<sup>3</sup> paramilitary- organized in the same way as, but not belonging to, an official army

Non-state terrorist organizations receive crucial backing from state supporters of terrorism. Without state funding, it would be far more difficult for terrorist organizations to get the resources, supplies, and safe havens they need to carry out them.

plans. What's most concerning is that some of these nations can produce WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction) as well as other destabilizing technologies that could fall into the hands of terrorists.

“State Sponsored terrorism” is as contentious<sup>4</sup> a concept as that of terrorism itself. The US State Department recently listed four countries as state sponsors of terrorism, 'for having constantly provided support for acts of worldwide terrorism'. Syria has been on the list since 1979, Iran since 1984, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) since 2017 and Cuba (again) since 2021. Iraq, Sudan, and Libya were previously featured on the list.

Since the collapse of the government, Somalia has been experiencing persistent state failure. The Islamist rebel group Al-Shabaab also referred to as "the Youth," is based in Somalia, and wants to overthrow the administration, expel foreign forces from Somalia, and finally establish an Islamic state. Washington's principal goal in Somalia has been to stop the country from acting as a haven for terrorist organizations to plan attacks against the United States and harm the eastern part of Africa. This goal has become more urgent as long-simmering disputes between Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia have exploded. The United States has primarily relied on proxy forces in Somalia to fight al-Shabaab, some of which have been supplied by private contractors. Al-Shabab has always made a living by taxing the areas it governs and extorting businesses in Mogadishu.

Iran has caused many threats to the security of the United States, especially through funding and support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, groups that frequently attack and provoke our allies in Israel.

In Syria, Iran supports a vicious dictator who has carried out inconceivable massacres against his people. Together with Russia, Iran is somewhere responsible for the deaths of more than 400,000 Syrians, and the migration of millions more.

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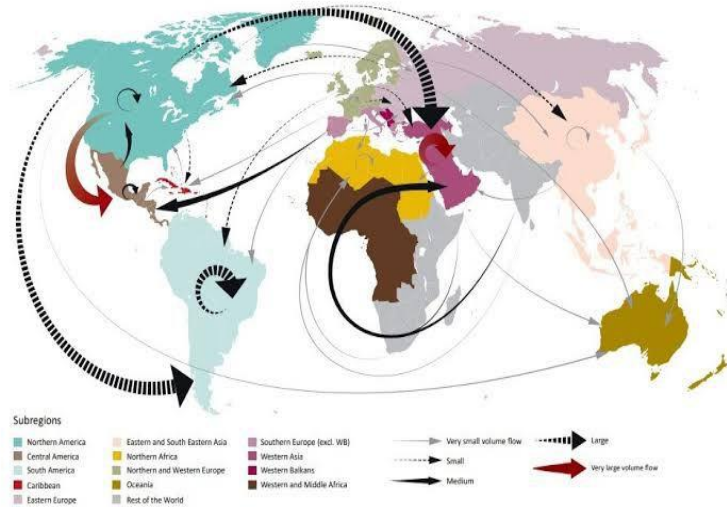
<sup>4</sup> Contentious- likely to cause argument

## MANUFACTURING

Firearms trafficking poses a threat to human life and international security. It serves as an enabler of violence and crime in every part of the world.

The manufacturing of illicit weapons globally is a serious problem that affects many countries and regions

affected by political instability, violence, and conflict. According to the **Small Arms Survey**, **875 million** small arms are circulating worldwide, produced by more than **1,000 companies from nearly 100 countries**. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated that the total value



of the global arms trade in 2017 was at least \$95 billion. Illicit weapons can be diverted from legal sources through theft, corruption, falsification of documents, or unauthorized re-export. They can also be manufactured illegally by clandestine workshops or by modifying legal firearms. Illicit weapons can fuel armed conflicts, terrorism, organized crime, and human rights violations. The Firearms Protocol is the only legally binding instrument to counter the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms at the global level. The relationship between terrorism and organized crime to the illicit financing, sourcing, and trafficking of weapons, and the extent to which terrorists engage in such behavior directly or work alongside organized criminal groups indirectly, has received growing attention in recent years. Also, terrorism and trafficking in weapons are closely linked. Weapons, in general, and firearms, in particular, are of vital importance for terrorist groups. Many terrorist groups that use illicit firearms to carry out their attacks and activities.

Some examples are:

- **ISIL/Daesh** has used assault rifles such as AK-47s and other types of firearms obtained through cross-border trafficking or diversion from legal sources in several attacks in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.
- **Boko Haram** has used firearms and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to attack civilians, security forces, and humanitarian workers in Nigeria and neighboring countries. Boko Haram has acquired firearms through theft, looting, smuggling, and illicit trade with other armed groups.
- **Al-Qaeda** has used firearms and IEDs to attack various targets around the world, including the United States, Kenya, Tanzania, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Al-Qaeda has obtained firearms through diversion from legal sources, smuggling, and illicit trade with other terrorist groups or criminal networks.

The illegal use of small arms and light weapons jeopardizes social development in several countries. The illegal manufacturing of small arms and light weapons is a complex issue that is difficult to track and prevent. The destabilizing accumulation and illicit manufacture, trade, and circulation of small arms and light weapons will increase insecurity and the duration of armed conflicts. The illicit manufacturing, acquisition, and trafficking of firearms also function as a market commonly known as the **'illicit global market'**. Griffiths and Wilkinson (2007: 25) suggest that "the illicit global arms market today works like any other largely free and unregulated system, driven by the dynamics of supply and demand".

Small arms and light weapons are produced both by governments and private companies. **The United States of America (US), the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom (UK), and Saudi Arabia are home to the world's largest manufacturers and exporters of these types of weapons.** Weapons production represents significant earnings for these countries. There are currently over **1,250 small arms and light weapons manufacturers, both private and public, in more than 90 countries worldwide.** The proliferation and stockpiling of illicit weapons continue to threaten international peace and security, exacerbating the plight of civilians in strife-torn countries worldwide.



## TRADING

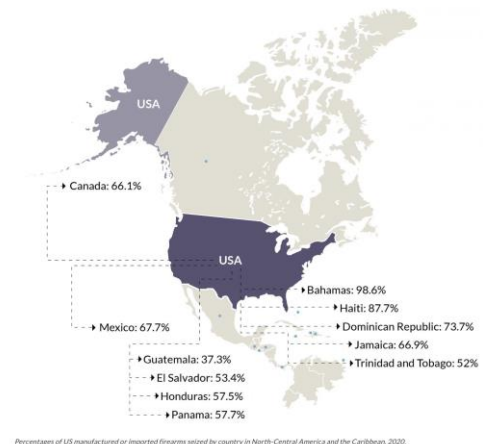
### Trade Of Illicit Firearms A Threat to Development, Peace and Security

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) have a modest market size in the illicit trade. It is a secondary rather than the main source of income for organized criminal organizations, research in several areas has shown that the smuggling of firearms and ammunition, whether it is made illegally, reused from previous conflicts, taken from government stocks, or smuggled from countries where the supply is legal and easily accessible, strengthens and expands illicit trade and markets around the world. Due to their long life cycles, weapons from prior civil wars and armed conflicts continue to circulate in conflict zones, which draw stocks of weaponry. Numerous of these end up in the hands of criminals, who use them to commit acts of violence both domestically and abroad. Armed criminal organizations can use firearms to carry out robberies and hijackings, threaten communities into submission, compete for dominance, discourage state actors, demand extortion payments, and commit a wide range of other crimes.

Illegal firearms undermine socioeconomic growth by hampering trade, impeding investments, and deterring tourism. The existence of armed groups and the high levels of violence connected to the illegal trade in firearms produce an unstable environment that impedes attempts to reduce poverty and hinders economic growth.

The widespread accessibility of illegal firearms supports a culture of violence. It might result in the normalization of violent conflict, which makes it more challenging to establish long-term peace and societal cohesion.

Illegal firearms trafficking increases conflicts, threatens social harmony and peace, and impedes development. Armed groups have access to illegally possessed SALW, which increases the lethality of violent crimes and causes incalculable misery for people.



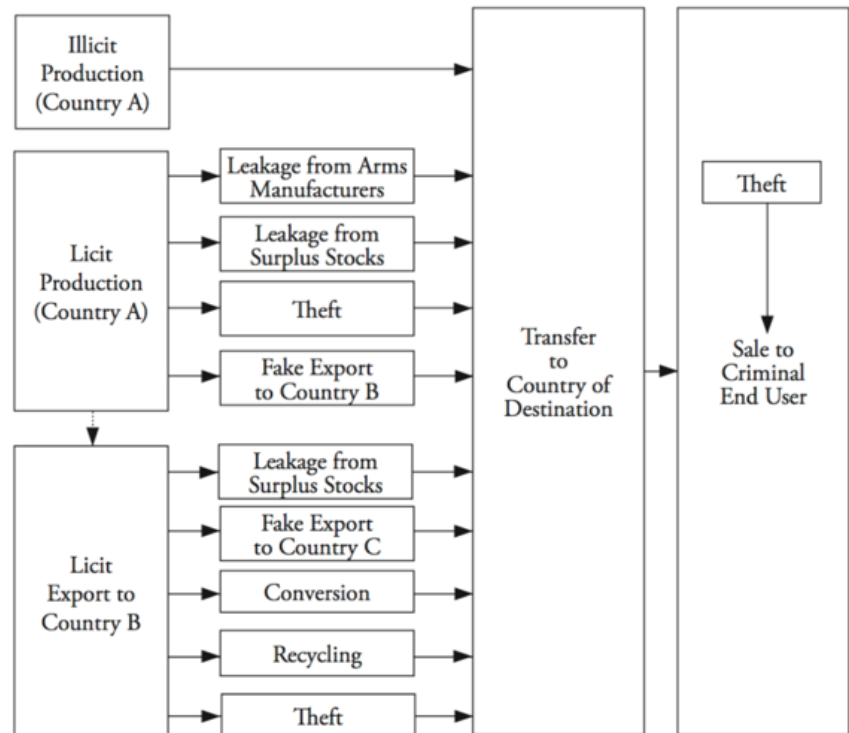
There are majorly 2 underlying causes of the same:

1. Existing Demand
2. Existing Supply

### 1. Existing Demand

Illicit arms form one of the largest markets in the world, back in the year 2014 alone the demand was worth \$1.6-2.2 trillion and has only increased exponentially. The following factors tend to be more significant among those that can influence the demand for illegal firearms:

- high rates of crime, violence, or disturbance in the community (civil unrest).
- large-scale armed conflict incidents (whether local, national, regional, or international).
- lack of faith in the legal system, the court, and the security sector.
- abuses of human rights, particularly by state security forces but also by others



Arms trafficking is the third-most prominent criminal market globally. According to the GI-TOC's Global Organised Crime Index 2021, it is most prevalent in the African, American, and Asian continents. The illegal arms trade poses a severe danger to democratic institutions and community resilience by facilitating organized crime and other criminal markets. According to the Index, smuggling, human trafficking, and the illegal trade in non-renewable resources are all connected to the magnanimous demand for arms. Drug trafficking in Europe and violent crime in Latin America and Africa have both been strongly related to the existence of huge demand for illegal arms. The desire for firearms is therefore accelerated by gang

cultures, civic unrest, racial and ethnic conflicts, broader cultural endorsements (such as the glamorization of firearms in popular culture), terrorist radicalization, and flaws and anomalies in firearms control laws. In turn, production is encouraged by this.

## 2. Existing Supply

The scale and modes of the supply of illegal firearms vary; in nations with a strong level of control, the shipments are typically less and irregular. On the other hand, large container shipments arriving by land, sea, or air are more common in nations with lenient control regimes or ineffective enforcement mechanisms, such as conflict cultures and conflict states (Griffiths and Wilkinson, 2007: 20–25).

Controlling the flow of SALW is essential for preventing the misuse and easy access to weapons. Nevertheless, this is not a simple task. SALW are widely used for both lawful military and civilian purposes, and they are produced by almost 1,250 businesses operating in at least 92 different nations. However, it is to be avoided that weapons that begin their lives as legal exports end up in the hands of criminals or non-state armed organizations, tighter national, regional, and international restrictions are necessary.

SALW can find their way into criminal society by the following ways:

**Diversion**-According to the UN, up to 40% of the legal international arms trade has reportedly been diverted through black markets to the regional wars that have broken out since 1990.

**Theft**: The risk of theft exists for all stockpiles. In order to lower the risk of theft, physical security and stockpile management, which refers to the practices and operations addressing the safe and secure accounting, storage, transportation, and handling of munitions and weapons, are essential.

**Misuse by government military or police forces**: People who get weapons from the government occasionally abuse them. For instance, due to poor earnings, police personnel may "rent out" their official police firearms to family members and friends in this way weapons find a way into criminal markets.

**Brokers**: Private arms brokers worsen weapon flow to potentially violent regions. They coordinate all aspects of arms trade, acting as negotiators, financiers, exporters,



importers, and transport agents. Their involvement centers on SALW, often without owning or possessing the supplied weapons.

Illicit weapons have two main markets: criminals and political actors. The trade thrives in crime-ridden areas and conflict zones. Two-thirds of firearms are acquired by non-state actors and individuals. States also contribute, particularly when evading international embargoes.

In order to prevent and battle the illegal trafficking of weapons and the supply of weapons to terrorists, it is crucial to strengthen the legal system, improve the criminal justice system's response, enhance stockpile management and security, and foster global collaboration and aid.

## CASE STUDY

### 1. Taliban

The Taliban came back to power in Afghanistan in 2021, twenty years after their ouster by U.S. armed forces.

Less than ten years after the U.S.-led invasion that overthrew the previous government in 2001, the Taliban regrouped in Pakistan and started retaking territory. The Taliban had taken back control by August 2021. They launched a quick onslaught as the United States began to withdraw its final soldiers from Afghanistan following a 2020 peace deal with the group. Afghanistan already has plenty of weapons due to prior battles. In addition to the weapons left behind by US troops, a nation



that has one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world also has many weapons that have been given to Afghan forces over the past 20 years by NATO and the US.

Numerous abuses of human rights have been recorded by the UN mission in Afghanistan. More than 200 news outlets have closed because of Taliban intimidation of journalists and restrictions on press freedoms. Protesters and activists have been tracked and forcibly vanished, and their government has ruthlessly suppressed protests.

At the same time, fighting between Taliban insurgents and American and Afghan government forces came to a stop with the seizure. The general security situation in the nation has improved, and the number of civilian casualties has decreased. The terrorist organization known as the Islamic State in Khorasan has upped its attacks on civilians across the nation, but violence is still pervasive.



International observers remain bothered that the Taliban support terrorist organizations, particularly al-Qaeda, causing a threat to regional and worldwide security. The United States conquered Afghanistan after it refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, the inventor of the 9/11 attacks. Under the Taliban's rule, Afghanistan could become a safe refuge for terrorists that can launch attacks against the United States and its allies.

Governments and foreign organizations supported the U.S.-led initiatives to drive out the Taliban and strengthen Afghanistan's government, democratic institutions, and civil society during the U.S. war in Afghanistan. Since 2001, they have done a variety of things:

- 1)MILITARY FORCES
- 2)SANCTIONS
- 3)AID
- 4)DIPLOMATIC TIES
- 5)INVESTIGATION

The United States interacts with Taliban representatives to advocate the creation of an inclusive political process that truly reflects Afghanistan's rich variety, including significant representation of women and marginalized groups.

The United States no longer offers support for Afghanistan's reconstruction since the Taliban took control in August 2021. To address basic human necessities and prevent a total and impending economic collapse, the United States has modified the nature and scope of its actions in Afghanistan to concentrate instead on targeted assistance and humanitarian aid.

In the critical areas of food security/agriculture, health, and education, the United States has advanced efforts to give Afghans life-saving humanitarian aid. In addition to providing for basic needs, the United States has helped fund initiatives aimed at enhancing Afghani citizens' human rights, notably those of women, girls, and marginalized groups. The main source of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan continues to be the United States.

## **2. West Africa and Sahel**

Behind the chaos and misery simmers a thriving illicit arms trade. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) claims that the Sahel rim boundaries and transportation routes are home to numerous arms trafficking centers and other criminal activity-related locations. Illegal marketplaces, which are frequently camouflaged in plain sight in towns and villages along strategic corridors, operate without hindrance. All the groups involved in clashes are now dealing with firearms and ammunition, according to a recent UNODC report on firearms trafficking. As the number of group members grows, so does the opportunity for traffickers to do business.

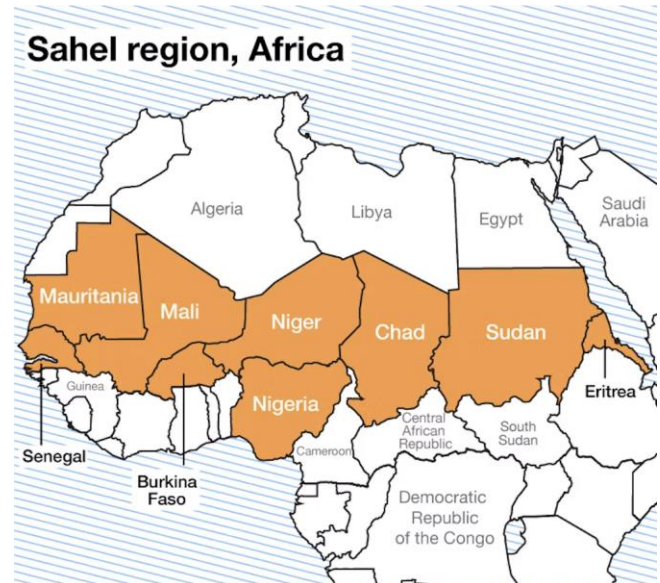
More than 9,300 people lost their lives in violent incidents in the Sahel in 2022, conflicts between armed groups and pro-government forces are not the main cause of violent incidents. Both insurgency and banditry have grown because of several mutually reinforcing circumstances, such as intercommunal strife, hostility between farmers and herders, violent religious extremism, and struggles over limited resources like water and arable land. Each organization involved needs weapons and ammunition, and as they grow in number, so do the opportunities for arms traffickers in the Sahel countries. While there is evidence of the trafficking of long-range weapons into the Sahel, particularly by air from France and Turkey via Nigeria, it appears that the majority of weapons that are trafficked in the region are procured within Africa.

Weapons traded in the Sahel not only stay in the region but also travel to West African coastal nations and have been used in terrorist strikes in the Gulf of Guinea. Some States in the region have armed militias or other non-state players to help communities defend themselves against extremist organizations, but their weapons are far more likely to be misused than those entrusted to formal national security structures. More than 67,400 people were killed between February 2018 and February 2021 in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso as a result of armed conflicts, assaults, mob violence, or the annexation of territory by non-state or government actors, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Database.



Comparing Burkina Faso to Mali and Niger, where mortality increased from about 300 in 2018 to roughly 1,900 in 2019.

Despite the legal introduction of weapons into the Sahel region and West Africa, the illegal arms market has not significantly expanded. However, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, along with ammunition, has created more opportunities for criminals to engage in arms trafficking and related criminal activities. Private gun smugglers from countries like Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Russia often exchange guns for diamonds mined in countries such as Liberia, Togo, and Burkina Faso. This trade persists due to the demand for affordable diamonds in Europe and firearms in West Africa, evading the scrutiny of European customs officials and African authorities. The arms also trade funds extremist and criminal organizations, reinforcing an illicit system. Smugglers with established networks evade monitoring efforts, aided by corrupt customs officials and individuals seeking a share of the profits. This trade also facilitates other illegal activities, including human smuggling, drug trafficking, and wildlife trafficking.



The Sahel region faces several underlying causes of arms proliferation and trafficking. These include the absence of dedicated security infrastructure to prevent the illicit flow of weapons, insufficient law enforcement in border areas and sparsely populated regions, limited funding for security personnel, and foreign actors who actively bypass the arms embargo to supply weapons to armed groups. As a result, countries like the United States and France have intervened to address national security concerns and promote international cooperation. However, despite some weapons seizures by the French military, the presence of international forces has had limited success in curbing the spread of weapons in the Sahel. This has resulted in a lack of motivation for local and regional governments to allocate funds or implement necessary reforms to address the ongoing challenge.

## EXPECTATIONS FROM THE DELEGATES

You have a special chance to influence the direction of international security as a delegate to The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). The delegates will work together to examine and make recommendations for solutions to the urgent problem of terrorism.

We hope that each delegate understands the extent of the issue at hand we are dealing with and its importance in every aspect of our lives. Each significant topic or factor shaping the current situation in the committee will be examined and taken into consideration. For a deeper understanding of the issue, delegates may also refer to previously adopted resolutions and solutions, but the bureau assumes that all delegates will have done enough research and understanding to engage in both critical analysis and innovative thought.

The delegates need to use the R.E.S.E.A.R.C.H method for proper understanding and analysis as well as the formation of solutions.

R-Relevant

E- Eloquent

S- Specific

E- Engaging

A- Authentic

R- Realistic

C- Consensual

H- Heedful

You must be careful about the sources you use for your research and make sure they are trustworthy and relevant. You must respect the rules of the committee and always behave professionally. And most importantly, you must think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions that can make a difference in the world.



## CONCLUSION

Eliminating the production, financing, and trade of illegal weapons is vital to lessen terrorism. Global security can be improved by addressing the underlying problems that encourage the spread of deadly weapons.

This study guide aims to deepen your grasp of the subject matter under discussion by our committee while giving you a place to start your research.

We believe that delegates will be enthusiastic and present a wide range of useful, comprehensive, and innovative solutions to the crisis. The committee will put its focus on tackling the disarmament aspect of the crisis while taking into account international peace and security. Lastly, the bureau anticipates that the delegates will conduct thorough research and present their country's position. We can't wait to meet you all and share our enthusiasm with you.



## QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What strategies could be taken to mitigate terrorism caused by the development of illicit weapons in respect to the advancement in technology?
2. What measures can be taken to combat the high level of manufacturing of illicit weapons in developed countries?
3. What measures can be taken to close off the options for terrorist financing?
4. What can be undertaken to improve the intelligence framework in the fight against financing terrorism?
5. What measures can be taken to prevent terrorists from moving and laundering cash across borders?
6. How can the high rates of manufacturing and high rates of trafficking in underdeveloped nations be curbed?
7. How to stop the thriving illicit network for the procurement and transfer of small arms on the grassroot level?

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