



LASALLECUNMUN 2024

DISEC

(Disarmament and
International Security)

“Arms control strategies to
prevent the flow of illicit arms
into conflict zones”

Background Guide





Greetings delegates,

It is a pleasure for me and my chair to have you in this committee in this model LASALLECUNMUN2024. My name is Ana Sofía Martínez Mercado, this year I will be the president of Disarmament and International Security. This is my first time participating as chair in a model. I decided to be president this year because I wanted to challenge myself. I am dedicated to make you fall with this committee and the model dynamic.

I am currently 15 years old, I am in first semester and I will be choosing Architectural Drawing in 3rd semester, this way I can choose Physics and mathematics in 5th semester, this way I can be prepared to study something related with physics such as astrophysics, theoretical physics, nuclear physics or quantum physics. Since I can remember, I have always wanted to study at Harvard University, I am in love with its plan of studies and the installations. Music, science, astronomy, reading and physics are some of the things I am passionate about. Making friends, practice my English and get to know the world best are things that I like about MUN, as well as develop my skills with the topics that I am interested the most. In the summer of 2025, I would like to enroll on a program in New York United Nations to learn how to improve my MUN abilities.

I hope that we can get immersed in the actual situations that may concern international security and put global societies at risk as well learn of each other's through their knowledge and experiences. It is important to remember that a model is not just debating and getting to a resolution, we can also have fun and still learning, participating in a model is a lifelong experience. I am sure that we can make a good team as you will do an amazing job. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at any time.

Best wishes,

Ana Sofia Mercado Disarmament and International Security

Committee (DISEC)

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

Disarmament and international security (DISEC), also known as the first committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

Topic: “Arms control strategies to prevent the flow of illicit arms into conflict zones.”

INTRODUCTION

Every year, 12 million bullets are manufactured, it is almost enough to kill every person in this world twice. Everyday thousands of people are homicide victims and a thousand more are forced to leave their homes due to violence, not only urban or organized but also due to international conflicts.

The illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation in many regions of the world, has humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of a very diverse nature and represents a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional, and international level.

First, we must know what arms control is: It is understood as a series of regulation laws and treaties for the trade and transfer of arms.

The International Treaty on arms trade consists of laws and regulations for trade or use of weapons. All States that are parties to the Treaty must obey strict rules on international arms transfers. The Treaty was designed to prevent deadly weapons from reaching the hands of people who will use them to commit human rights violations, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. More than a hundred countries have joined the Treaty, and more than 30 others have signed it: the first step to becoming State Parties. The Treaty can help save lives, but only if it is properly implemented and if states are held accountable when they violate it. even also there is a treaty, the international trade still being in increase and continuous to fuel the abuse of humans rights, this because the most important and the largest arms exporters (China, Russia USA) have not ratified the treaty, there are even countries that, despite being part of the treaty do not comply with what is legislated in it.

Illegal arms trafficking is a worldwide problem, because it is through the black market or the deep web that these weapons are mostly obtained, the most alarming thing is that anybody can access the illegal means of marketing, which means that both children and criminal gangs have access to these types of materials, in a war conflict, the last thing countries want is for the conflict to get bigger. Their way of containing this conflict is not to give the necessary weapons to their allies, so the countries at war must find a way to introduce weapons without world organizations realizing This is where illegal trade or dirty trade comes in because some countries decide to introduce ammunition to countries at war without world organizations finding out.

Unfortunately, society is the one that is most affected and yet countries continue to put their diplomatic interests above their population.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The illicit arms trade in conflict zones has historical roots that can be traced back to various factors, including geopolitical interests, economic incentives, and regional tensions. Colonialism and Imperialism: European colonial powers often supplied arms to various factions within their colonies, contributing to conflicts and instability. Cold War: The superpower rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War led to significant arms transfers to proxy wars and conflicts in different regions, such as the Korean War, Vietnam War, and conflicts in Africa and Central America. Post-Cold War Surplus: The end of the Cold War left a surplus of military equipment, which found its way to conflict zones in the Balkans, Africa, and the Middle East. Regional Conflicts: Ongoing conflicts, like those in the Middle East, have seen arms supplies from various sources, often with political and strategic motivations. Corruption and Weak Governance: Weak governance and corruption in conflict-affected countries have facilitated the illegal arms trade by providing opportunities for illicit networks to thrive. Ethnic and Religious Tensions: Ethnic: In various regions have driven demand for weapons to support the interests of different groups involved in conflicts. Demand for Natural Resources: Control over valuable resources, such as diamonds, minerals, and oil, has fueled conflicts, and arms trafficking has played a role in securing and protecting these resources. Arms Brokers and Smuggling Networks: Illicit arms brokers and smuggling networks have exploited these factors to profit from the trade in conflict zones. International Regulations: While international regulations and arms embargoes exist, enforcement can be challenging, allowing illicit arms flows to continue.

Since 2001 The countries present at the United Nations conference on illicit trafficking of branches agreed on some of the following measures to reduce the market:

Establish, where they do not exist, appropriate laws, regulations, and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of small arms and light weapons in their jurisdictions and the export, import, transit or re-shipment of such weapons to prevent illegal manufacture. and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons or their diversion to unauthorized recipients

Adopt and implement, in States that have not yet done so, the necessary legislative or other measures to criminalize in their national legislation the illicit manufacture, possession, storage and trade of small arms and light weapons in their jurisdiction to ensure that those involved in such activities can be prosecuted under applicable national criminal codes.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) established in 1990. Its mission is to set common rules and standards to regulate the international flow of arms. The United Nations Program of Action on Small arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is also a globally accepted framework that sets rules and standards that governments must follow, by joining they agree to improve their national laws and to cooperate if necessary.

CURRENT SITUATION

Currently, the situation can be divided into 5 aspects.

Scope of the Problem: The illicit arms trade in conflict zones involves the illegal sale and transfer of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment. It often fuels conflicts and contributes to instability in affected regions.

Impact on Conflicts: Illicit arms trading can intensify and prolong conflicts by providing warring parties with the means to sustain violence. This includes rebel groups, militias, and even governments in some cases.

Routes and Players: Illicit arms trade networks are complex, involving various players such as arms dealers, traffickers, corrupt officials, and black-market operators. These networks often use covert and illicit routes to move weapons.

International Efforts: The international community, through organizations like the United Nations, has sought to combat this problem through arms embargoes, sanctions, and arms control agreements. These efforts aim to limit the availability of weapons in conflict zones.

Regional Variances: The extent and nature of illicit arms trade can vary significantly from one conflict zone to another. It is influenced by factors like the availability of weapons, local political dynamics, and the demand for arms.

Humanitarian Consequences: The illicit arms trade can lead to significant humanitarian consequences, including displacement, loss of life, and the perpetuation of violence, making it a matter of global concern.

The International Organizations are looking forward to regulating the possession, sale, transportation of weapons in different parts of the world to avoid illegal fluency of the same. One of the committees that is most deeply in the problem together with Disarmament and International Security is United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes.

Currently the United Nations have detected illicit trade and flow in the conflict zone of Ukraine and Russia war, knowing that at some time the weapons can end in wrong hands such as criminal gangs or citizens, and this is what United Nations cares about, with that the war would be worst and social security may be affected. United Nations work in the coordination of countries that can locate and extract weapons coming from an illicit source as well as passing arrest cases to security

organizations such as INTERPOL. Illicit arms trade contributes to the creation of new terrorist groups in conflict zones, this groups can possess arms and weapons that may hinder the war and the way international organizations act to solve them.

Part of the agenda for 2023 is to properly mark and improve their weapons tracing so in case weapons are found in conflict zones they can be correctly traced back. General export controls help to monitor and restrict the export of arms, especially to countries with a history of human rights abuses, countries that have armed conflicts or are prone to. Border controls also are being put in use, these measures can help to intercept and prevent the smuggling of arms into a country. International cooperation with organizations such as INTERPOL are of help, the reason why is that these organizations share intelligence related to arms trafficking and help when it is necessary.

COUNTRY BOX

Commonwealth of Australia
Federal Republic of Germany
French Republic
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Kingdom of Spain
People's Republic of China
Republic of Austria
Republic of India
Republic of Lithuania
Republic of Romania
Republic of South Africa
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
The Italian Republic
The Netherlands
The State of Israel
The United States of America
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States of Mexico

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- What actions has your country implemented to prevent the flow of illicit arms into conflict zones?
- What are your countries laws regarding arm control?
- What treaties has your country signed that help to regulate, prevent, or at least reduce the flow of illicit arms into other countries?
- Has your country been affected by the trade of illicit arms into it or, out of it?
- What has been the social impact of the trade of illicit arms into your own country's conflict zones?

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