

Hilton 2018

Disarmament

Committee Overview

Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation
The Role of Multilateralism in Reducing Disarmament Affairs
Illegal Trade of Weapons over the Internet
Use of Drones as Weapons in Africa

Committee Description

Our committee will be run Harvard style, which means that there can be no pre-written resolutions. We highly recommend writing at least one position paper as this is necessary to be considered for an award. In addition, delegates should have some knowledge of each of the topics in order to be informed during debate. We expect that all delegates will come to committee with a good grasp on their country and its policies, especially surrounding our topics of discussion. The goal of Disarmament is to solve the issues presented peacefully, effectively, and respectfully. We recognize that awards are fun to receive but above all we want to make sure you have fun while participating.

Chairs

Aarya Patel | aaryapatel2019@yahoo.com

My name is Aarya Patel and this is my third time chairing and my fourth year in Model UN! I am a senior at Brighton High School. I am part of the leadership team for our Model UN club, vice president of DECA, President of FBLA, and a natural helpers leader. Feel free to email us with any questions on topics, position papers, etc. I look forward to meeting everyone!

Runjni Shastri | runjni.shastri@gmail.com

My name is Runjni Shastri and this will be my first time chairing but my fourth year in Model UN. I am a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School. Outside of MUN, I am the president of the broadcast journalism and A/V Club at my school. I also play the trombone and sing and am a part of the jazz ensemble, jazz and show choirs, and the musicals. You can email me anytime with any questions you may have and I am so excited to meet you all!

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Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation



Small arms and light weapons (SALW) continue to be an increasing threat to the economic and social security of nations around the world, mainly developing ones. SALW refers to any weapon that can be carried by one or two people; this including pistols, assault rifles, mortars, rocket launchers and missile launchers.

Low intensity conflicts caused by the use of these weapons have resulted in the death of over one million people this decade, and the majority of these deaths are civilian ones due to indiscriminate warfare. According to the Red Cross, SALW is the cause of 90% of recent war casualties. These weapons are light, cheap and easy to use by anyone

(increasing access to children as well) and it is this mass availability that has led to so much crime, terrorism and death from them. They are extremely lethal, portable, concealable and durable as well. The global proliferation of these weapons has recently led to increased intensity and frequency of conflicts and has produced 20 million refugees and 24 million internally displaced people.

While prevalent in every nation, most of these conflicts occur in developing/poor nations. The correlation between conflict and poverty in these nations has led to conflicts being fought indiscriminately with cheap and accessible weapons like SALW. In addition, the trade of these weapons has become increasingly difficult to track. Few governments publish information on the transfer of SALW in their countries, quite possibly because over 25% of it happens in the black market (illegally). While only a few major production centers are able to produce expensive, heavy military weapons and tanks, over 50 nations (even some developing) can manufacture small, light ones, contributing to the illegal trade of them and their mass distribution.

The UN has taken some measures on this issue, yet the UN Register of Conventional Weapons and the Wassenaar Agreement both pay very little attention to this issue. In addition, the UN has previously called for an international conference on illicit weapons trafficking and has recommended stronger laws, regulations and security of these arms, however, not much has come from these recommendations. Now, however, improving weapons tracing is part of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and the UN is adopting a programme of action on small arms to enforce this.

How can the UN regulate the mass production and distribution of SALW without infringing on national sovereignty? How can Disarmament reduce the number of refugees and IDP's from the use of these weapons? How can the UN reduce the black market trade of SALW?

Sources:

<https://fas.org/asmp/campaigns/smallarms/primer.html>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/print/391>

<https://unchronicle.un.org/article/un-role-and-efforts-combating-proliferation-small-arms-and-light-weapons>

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The Role of Multilateralism in Reducing Disarmament Affairs



For international relations, multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal. To this day, the UN focuses on creating multilateral agreements in order to stop nuclear proliferation and testing. Chapter 7 of the UN charter shows a strong multilateral agreement with the goal of eliminating all WMD and shows that the nations of the world are seeking a common security arrangement. However, in recent years, these arrangements haven't been holding up.

The treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) is an international treaty which tries to stop the making of and spread of nuclear technology while promoting the safe use of nuclear energy. The NPT is one example of multilateralism helping to reduce

disarmament affairs, however, it is evident today more than ever that previous UN action hasn't enforced peace or reduced nuclear weapon use enough. The 2015 review conference on the NPT showed the failed attempt of nations to agree on the final document for this treaty, which is highly concerning as nuclear tensions are rising.

The UN is constantly trying to create new resolutions and has called for a negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention (NWC) which would create a global treaty prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons as well as a programme for complete disarmament. While 130 countries are currently supporting this action, the problem is that negotiations have not begun due to the fact that there is no support from "nuclear armed states." These states don't want their weapons eliminated, but multilateralism cannot just occur between anti-nuclear countries, it is evident that support needs to be rallied from both sides in order to reduce disarmament affairs.

To date, most nuclear arms agreements have been bilateral (mainly with the U.S. and Russia). It is proposed that Britain, France, China, U.S. and Russia are the most likely candidates for short term inclusion for arms control (as they are the five permanent members of the security council and the five nuclear weapon states recognized by the NPT). India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea also possess nuclear weapons; however, it is highly unlikely that these states will agree to any new treaties. The five permanent members could start fostering stability but it is up to the other nations to truly create multilateralism in regards to this goal.

How can Disarmament encourage uncooperative nations to understand the importance of multilateralism in reducing disarmament affairs? How can the UN create treaties and programmes with more enforcement without infringing on national sovereignty? How can the UN encourage the five permanent members to start?

Sources:

https://www.unaa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UNAA_nuclear_proliferation_FS_v2.pdf

https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/HomePage/HR/docs/2002/2002May30_Casper.pdf

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/third-country-nuclear-forces-and-possible-measures-for-multilateral-arms-control/>

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Illegal Trade of Weapons over the Internet



As internet technology has developed, the number of illegal sales of weapons, ranging from guns to nuclear missiles, has sharply increased online. These transactions occur on sites that never require background checks and can be accessed anywhere in the world. Approximately ten to twenty percent of all weapons trade occurs over the darknet, which is worth about \$1.7 to 3.5 billion. Since the serial numbers are taken off the weapons, they are almost impossible to track down.

The internet makes it easier for terrorists to acquire weapons and harder for governments to regulate them. The dark web makes up 96% of the internet.

The surface sites that make up the remaining 4% are what the average consumer uses, which already includes millions of sites. There are billions of illegal sites and even more people using them. Regulating the surface sites is already difficult, but it has been done with policies such as Net Neutrality.

Countries have individually started to regulate the internet, but most weapon trade occurs internationally. Firearms can be bought by a buyer in the Middle East from a seller in the United States. However there is no way to track these purchases or identify the buyer or seller. The anonymity to these sales is what attracts terrorists to the online trade since there is no way to identify them based on their purchases. Most weapons sold are small firearms or bombs, however a small portion of weapons are of nuclear magnitude. There are many weapons that could cause mass destruction which are high risk especially in the hands of terrorists.

How can the UN regulate the illegal sale of weapons over the internet? What can countries do to help decrease this problem? Is there a way to track weapons sold and identify buyers and sellers?

Sources:

<https://www.rand.org/randeurope/research/projects/international-arms-trade-on-the-hidden-web.html>

<https://gizmodo.com/5927379/the-secret-online-weapons-store-thatll-sell-anyone-anything>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13126.doc.htm>

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Use of Drones as Weapons in Africa



In recent years, there has been an increase in the use of drones in Africa, both for humanitarian uses and as weapons. These drones come with increased western intervention and are used for surveillance and counter-terrorism as well as for some humanitarian uses such as bringing food and medicine to rural parts of Africa. Many African Governments have also used drones to eliminate drug dealers and other criminals.

Drone use by the media and the public is generally safe, however, the majority of drones are used in drone strikes attempting to eliminate terrorist threats. In Niger, the US

military opened a drone base used solely for the purpose of deploying American drones into the Sahel. Although approved by the Nigerian Government, the opening of this base would mean the continued involvement of the American Military in the affairs of Africa. Most of the terrorism that occurs in Africa has increased due to western involvement, and the opening of this base could increase the threat of terrorism even more.

Other than counter-terrorism, drones have also been used for targeted killings, in which drones are used to eliminate specific individuals. Criminals like drug dealers and human traffickers are usually difficult to find, so African nations have started using targeted killings as a way to find and eliminate these threats. The US military has carried out targeted killing since the end of the Cold War which goes against human rights and is technically illegal.

In Africa, drones are vital to bringing aid to rural areas, helping with infrastructure, and supplying food to those in need. However, as the technology develops, drones are used more as weapons. The use of drones for targeted killing and to combat terrorism violates human rights which calls for some regulation on drones.

Is there a way to regulate drone usage in a safe and effective way? Is there a way to monitor when and where drones are used? What can the UN do to stop foreign intervention in the use of these drones as weapons rather than for solely humanitarian purposes?

Sources:

<https://defense360.csis.org/bad-idea-armed-drones-west-africa/>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2013/gashc4078.doc.htm>

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-02-28/why-us-military-building-drone-base-niger>