



# Committee Chair Report

## GA1 - General Assembly 1

Topic 2: Illegal Trafficking of Small Arms by Promoting Control Measures.

*Chair: Yara Bazeih*

*Deputy Chair: Jady Yan*

### **Personal Statements:**

#### **Chair – Yara Bazeih:**

Good morning everyone, my name is Yara, I am 15 years old, I am from Lebanon and I go to ACS Hillingdon in London, England. This is my first time in MUNISS but I have been to many other conferences like THIMUN. MUNISS is an international conference where all people interested in Model UN can come to challenge themselves and work on their critical thinking and communication skills. I am very thankful I will chair this committee and wish all of you the best of luck during this conference. That said, I would like to welcome you to General Assembly 1, where we will be discussing important topics surrounding cybersecurity, arms trafficking and 3D printing weaponry. Since this is a beginner committee, we encourage every delegate, no matter their experience, to put themselves out there. Even if you're not sure what's going on, don't worry, most people don't. This debate is a first experience for most of you and so, don't be afraid to participate.

#### **Deputy Chair – Jady Yan:**

My name is Jady and I am 15 years old, and I had the experience participating in the Model United Nations MUNISS conference last year. In that conference, I was part of the World Health Organization (WHO) committee, where I discussed global health issues. I am excited to bring my experience and passion for international affairs to the General Assembly First Committee (GA1) as your deputy chair.

### **Introduction:**

The Model United Nations International School of Stuttgart (MUNISS) conference is a platform that gathers students from around the country to engage in diplomatic simulations, creating an understanding on global issues. As a participant in MUNISS, I had the opportunity to engage myself in debates, resolution drafting, public speaking, and critical thinking.

### **Committee Overview:**

The General Assembly First Committee (GA1) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. GA1 deals with disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community. It provides a forum for all UN member states to discuss and address security issues, such as cybersecurity, which has become increasingly important in today's world.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries

### **First-Time Delegates:**

For many delegates, participating in GA1 could be their first experience in a Model United Nations. It is important to create an environment where first-time delegates feel comfortable to contribute their ideas and perspectives. We will provide clarity in procedures and provide guidance on debate etiquette and create discussions to help delegates navigate their first MUN experience.

### **Beginner Committee Functioning:**

In a Model United Nations (MUN) setting, delegates engage in debates, negotiations, and resolution drafting to address global issues. Committees like GA1 provide a platform for delegates to represent their assigned countries' interests, perspectives, and collaborate on finding solutions to challenges. MUN procedures, such as the rules of parliamentary debate and the format for drafting resolutions are crucial for delegates to participate and contribute to committee sessions.

# GA1 Chair Report

Topic 2: Illegal Trafficking of Small Arms by Promoting Control Measures.

## Introduction:

The illegal trafficking of small arms poses a significant challenge to global security, contributing to armed conflicts, exacerbating humanitarian crises, and fueling organised crime. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that considers historical contexts, geopolitical dynamics, socio-economic factors, and the intricate interplay of various stakeholders. By promoting effective control measures, the international community can mitigate the adverse impacts of illicit small arms trafficking and foster peace and stability worldwide.

## Glossary:

**Small Arms:** Firearms designed for personal use or use by a small group, including handguns, rifles, and light weapons.

**Illegal Trafficking:** The unauthorised trade or movement of goods, in this case, small arms, across borders or within countries.

**Control Measures:** Policies and actions implemented to regulate the possession, transfer, and use of small arms to prevent their illegal trafficking and misuse.

## Issue Explanation:

The illegal trafficking of small arms presents a multifaceted challenge with significant humanitarian, economic, and security implications. Humanitarian disasters arise from the widespread availability of small arms, contributing to armed conflict, displacement, and civilian casualties. Additionally, the proliferation of illicit weapons fuels organised crime and undermines socio-economic development in affected regions. Failure to address this issue perpetuates instability and violence, posing a threat not only to the directly affected areas but also to global peace and security.

## History of the Topic:

The history of illegal small arms trafficking is a complex narrative deeply intertwined with the evolution of warfare, technological advancements in arms manufacturing, and shifts in geopolitical power dynamics. Throughout human history, the trade in arms has played a central role in shaping conflicts, colonisation efforts, and power struggles among nations.

During antiquity, the production and trade of weapons were critical components of military strategy and statecraft. Empires such as the Roman, Persian, and Chinese empires established

vast networks of arms production and distribution to equip their armies and assert dominance over conquered territories.

The mediaeval period witnessed the emergence of the feudal system, where lords and knights maintained private arsenals and engaged in localised conflicts to expand their domains. The proliferation of castles and fortified settlements necessitated the production and trade of arms on a regional scale, laying the groundwork for the development of early arms markets.

The early modern period saw significant advancements in firearms technology, with the widespread adoption of gunpowder weapons revolutionising warfare. The establishment of colonial empires by European powers led to the global diffusion of firearms, as colonial administrators sought to arm indigenous allies and suppress local resistance movements.

The industrial revolution brought about a paradigm shift in arms production, making firearms more accessible and affordable. Mass production techniques enabled the rapid proliferation of small arms, fueling conflicts within and between nations. The emergence of standing armies and professionalised military forces further increased the demand for small arms, leading to the establishment of state-controlled arsenals and arms factories.

The aftermath of World War I saw the emergence of clandestine arms networks, as surplus weapons flooded the global market. The Treaty of Versailles imposed restrictions on arms production and trade, but illicit arms dealers exploited loopholes and circumvented regulations to supply weapons to various actors involved in regional conflicts and insurgencies.

The interwar period witnessed the rise of fascism and totalitarian regimes, which utilised small arms as instruments of repression and control. The Spanish Civil War and the conflicts in China and Ethiopia served as testing grounds for new weapons and tactics, further fueling the demand for small arms and ammunition.

The outbreak of World War II saw the massive mobilisation of military forces and the unprecedented production of small arms on a global scale. The proliferation of firearms during this period facilitated the emergence of partisan movements and resistance networks, as civilians took up arms to resist foreign occupation and tyranny.

The Cold War era witnessed the intensification of arms proliferation, as rival superpowers engaged in proxy conflicts and supported client states with weapons and military aid. Small arms became tools of ideological warfare, with arms transfers and covert operations fueling conflicts in regions such as Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

Following the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of state structures and the proliferation of non-state armed groups further complicated efforts to control the illicit trade in small arms. The collapse of authoritarian regimes and the proliferation of illicit arms markets in post-conflict environments created fertile ground for armed violence and organised crime.

In recent decades, advancements in communication and transportation technologies have facilitated the globalisation of the illicit arms trade, enabling transnational criminal networks to operate across borders with impunity. The emergence of online black markets and the use of cryptocurrencies have further obscured the illicit nature of arms transactions, posing significant challenges to law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

### **Any Previous Attempts:**

Despite the complexities associated with addressing the illegal trafficking of small arms, the international community has made concerted efforts to combat this problem through various agreements, conventions, and initiatives. The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, represents a milestone in global efforts to address this issue. This comprehensive framework outlines measures for enhancing national capacities, strengthening international cooperation, and promoting transparency in arms transfers.

The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action, held in 2005, provided a platform for member states to assess the effectiveness of existing measures and identify areas for improvement. The conference resulted in the adoption of a set of outcome documents reaffirming the commitment of states to combat illicit small arms trafficking and strengthen international cooperation in this regard.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), adopted in 2013, represents another significant step towards regulating the international trade in conventional arms and preventing their diversion into the illicit market. By establishing common standards for the transfer of arms and promoting transparency in arms transactions, the treaty aims to reduce the risk of small arms falling into the hands of illicit actors.

In addition to these multilateral initiatives, various regional organisations and civil society groups have played instrumental roles in raising awareness about the dangers of illicit small arms trafficking and advocating for stronger measures to address this issue. Initiatives such as the European Union's Firearms Directive and the African Union's Firearms Protocol demonstrate the commitment of regional actors to combating illicit arms trafficking and promoting peace and security in their respective regions.

### **Relevant documents:**

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2001). Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2005). United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). (2013). The Arms Trade Treaty.

### **Media Contribution:**

The illegal trafficking of small arms receives varied coverage in the media, reflecting divergent perspectives and interests. While some segments of the public advocate for stricter gun control measures and international cooperation to combat illicit arms trade, others prioritise individual rights to gun ownership and emphasise national sovereignty over disarmament initiatives. The topic elicits debates on security, human rights, and global governance, highlighting the importance of informed public discourse and policy action.

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