Committee Chair Report

GA1 - General Assembly 1

Topic 3: Dealing with the Escalating Challenge of 3D Printed weapons in Worldwide Conflict.

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 3: Dealing with the Escalating Challenge of 3D Printed weapons in Worldwide Conflict.

Introduction:

The proliferation of 3D printed weaponry presents a multifaceted challenge to global security, amplifying the complexity of worldwide conflict dynamics. Additive manufacturing technologies have evolved rapidly, enabling the production of firearms and other armaments with unprecedented ease and accessibility. This report aims to delve into the escalating threat posed by 3D printed weapons in contemporary conflict zones and to explore viable strategies to counter this burgeoning challenge.

Glossary:

1. 3D Printed Weapons: Firearms and other weapons manufactured using additive manufacturing techniques, commonly known as 3D printing.

2. Worldwide Conflict: Armed conflicts and disputes occurring across various regions of the globe, ranging from conventional warfare to non-state actor engagements.

Issue Explanation:

The proliferation of 3D printed weaponry presents a multifaceted challenge with significant implications for global security. Unlike traditional firearms, which are subject to stringent regulations and oversight, 3D printed weapons can be produced clandestinely, circumventing existing arms control measures. This poses a grave threat to civilian populations, as these weapons can easily fall into the hands of non-state actors and criminal organisations, exacerbating conflict dynamics and destabilising regions already grappling with insecurity.

History of the Topic:

The emergence of 3D printed weapons represents a paradigm shift in the landscape of conflict and arms control. While the technology itself has existed for several decades, recent advancements in additive manufacturing techniques have made it increasingly accessible and affordable. This has led to a proliferation of DIY firearm designs circulating online, enabling individuals with limited resources and technical expertise to produce lethal weapons with ease.

The history of 3D printed weapons can be traced back to the early experiments with additive manufacturing in the 1980s. Initially developed for prototyping and rapid manufacturing in industries such as aerospace and automotive, 3D printing technology gradually evolved to encompass a wider range of materials and applications. The democratisation of 3D printing in

the 21st century, driven by open-source hardware and software platforms, has facilitated the widespread adoption of this technology by hobbyists, enthusiasts, and entrepreneurs.

The first documented case of a functional 3D printed firearm, known as the "Liberator," was released by Cody Wilson and his organisation Defense Distributed in 2013. This single-shot pistol, designed to be manufactured almost entirely from plastic components using a 3D printer, sparked widespread debate and controversy over the implications of 3D printed weapons for firearms regulation and national security.

Since then, the proliferation of 3D printed firearms has continued unabated, with numerous designs and models freely available online through file-sharing platforms and online communities. Advances in additive manufacturing technology, coupled with the availability of high-performance thermoplastics and metal alloys, have further expanded the capabilities and lethality of 3D printed weapons, including rifles, submachine guns, and ammunition components.

The use of 3D printed weapons has been documented in various conflict zones and criminal activities worldwide, highlighting the potential risks associated with this emerging technology. Non-state actors and insurgent groups have reportedly utilised 3D printed firearms to circumvent arms embargoes and procurement restrictions, while organised crime syndicates have exploited the anonymity and accessibility of 3D printing to manufacture untraceable weapons for illicit markets.

Any Previous Attempts:

Efforts to address the challenge of 3D printed weapons have been documented in various international agreements and resolutions. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/75/66, adopted in 2020, emphasises the need for enhanced international cooperation and coordination to prevent the illicit production and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, including those produced using 3D printing technology. Additionally, Resolution A/RES/68/234, adopted in 2014, underscores the importance of addressing emerging threats posed by advances in technology, including 3D printing, in the context of disarmament and arms control efforts.

Efforts to curb the proliferation of 3D printed weapons also include discussions within international forums such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), adopted in 2013. The ATT aims to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion into the illicit market, thereby indirectly addressing concerns related to 3D printed weapons. Furthermore, initiatives by organisations such as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) have contributed to the development of mechanisms for identifying and tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, which may also be applicable to 3D printed weapons.

Relevant Documents:

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2014). Resolution A/RES/68/234: Towards the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (2020). Resolution A/RES/75/66: Preventing the Illicit Production and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

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

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). (2001). International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Media Contribution:

The issue of 3D printed weaponry has garnered increasing attention in the media, with news outlets reporting on the growing prevalence of homemade firearms and the potential risks they pose to public safety. While some segments of the public advocate for stricter regulation of 3D printing technology and enhanced law enforcement measures, others emphasise the need to balance security concerns with individual freedoms and technological innovation.

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