



**Florida High Schools Model United Nations**

**FHSMUN GULF COAST 9**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE**

**ASSISTANCE TO STATES IN CURBING THE ILLICIT  
TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

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*“Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons may grab the world’s attention as threats to human life. But it is hand-held and cheap weapons that deliver the most violent death in wars today.”*

*The Economist*, “Small weapons of mass destruction,” June 29, 2006.

*“Convinced that the protection of human rights must be central to the development of further principles and norms regarding the availability, transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons and that to maximize human rights protection for the greatest number of people, both in their own societies and in the international community, States must take steps not only to prevent violations of human rights by State officials with small arms, but also to reduce small arms violence by private actors.”*

Mohammed Habib, “Adoption of the Report on the Fifty-Eighth Session to the Human Rights Council: Draft Report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” August 24, 2006, p. 4.

# **COMMITTEE BRIEF**

## **Introduction**

Widely accepted estimates place the number of privately held small arms and light weapons (SALWs) worldwide at over 875 million,<sup>1</sup> roughly 1 for every 9 people on the planet. Many of these firearms are owned legally and are intended primarily for hunting and/or personal protection but tens of millions of these weapons, defined as weapons that can be carried by 1-2 adults or a small pack animal, are used every year in the commission of crimes. While the UN does not have the authority nor the intention to ban private gun ownership, either within particular member states or globally, prominent gun ownership advocates around the world have repeatedly alleged that the UN will take away their guns.<sup>2</sup> During this session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee (GA1), delegates are tasked with improving the UN'S and the international community's operational capacities to track and ultimately remove illegally held and/or owned weapons from worldwide circulation, particularly in the many instance where these firearms fuel and/or exacerbate ongoing conflicts.

## **Scale of the Problem**

The availability of SALWs in many societies is alarming. The assault rifle of choice, the *Avtomat Kalashnikova*, or Kalashnikov/AK-47, has “as many as 200 million... in circulation worldwide,” which have been “in trouble spots all over the world for decades, especially in Africa.”<sup>3</sup> The weapons' price is cheaper among these “trouble spots” due to their demand being higher in those areas than in others. In the United States, there are an estimated 393 million privately held SALWs.<sup>4</sup> The transfer of weapons is one of the most important and difficult issues, particularly when international arms dealers and brokers aid interested parties in evading weapons embargoes and restrictions. As international organizations, national governments and local communities deal with the problems caused by the illicit transfer of SALWs, they must collaborate with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), such as the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), and relevant civil society partners.

As borders have become increasingly porous in many parts of the world, it has become correspondingly easier for arms dealers to smuggle illegal weapons into conflict zones and new markets. While Western newspapers typically provide greater coverage to stories of weapons smuggling in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asian conflict zones such as Afghanistan<sup>5</sup> and western Pakistan, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Republics, including the Crimea and Ukraine, and the Balkans must also be areas of critical concern. Although efforts have been made in Kosovo, a state within the Western Balkans recognized by 114 UN member states and whose relations with Serbia are currently being normalized because

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<sup>1</sup> *Small Arms Survey*, “Weapons and Markets,” 2018. Found at: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets.html>

<sup>2</sup> *Small Arms Survey*, “Weapons and Markets,” 2018. Found at: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets.html>

<sup>3</sup> *Forbes*, “The Cost of An AK-47 On The Black Market Around The World,” March 30, 2017. Found at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2017/03/30/the-cost-of-an-ak-47-on-the-black-market-across-the-world-infographic/?sh=2ffb63407442>

<sup>4</sup> Harmeet Kaur, “What Studies Reveal About Gun Ownership in the US,” *CNN*, June 2, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> CJ Chivers, “How Many Did the U.S. Lose Track of in Afghanistan and Iraq? Hundreds of Thousands,” *The New York Times Magazine*, August 24, 2016.

of the 2013 Brussels Agreement, to develop a weapons control legislation and control the issue of firearms trafficking, “The Western Balkans is the main point of entry for firearm smuggling into the EU.”<sup>6</sup> Strategies that simultaneously address both the supply and demand components of weapons smuggling must inform the priorities of the UN. The importance of a true multi-stakeholder dialogue and subsequently implemented plan of action involving the UN, national governments, NGOs, and arms manufacturers and merchants cannot be overstated. Licensing and registering SALWs would greatly aid national and local governments, international organizations, law enforcement personnel, NGOs, and relevant civil society partners in preventing the smuggling and distribution of illicit SALWs. In post-conflict situations, preventing former combatants from acquiring and using illegal SALWs is vital to ensuring that conflicts do not reignite.

Small arms and light weapons pose humanitarian threats even directly employed by combatants. Improper storage of explosive ordnance and related munitions continue to detonate, maiming and killing civilians.<sup>7</sup> Ensuring that all SALWs are properly stored and guarded remains a fundamental element of any comprehensive solution to the problems posed by SALWs.

### **UN System Actions**

In 2001, the UN adopted the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, a non-binding agreement aimed at reducing the flow of illicit SALWs to conflict zones and criminals; the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms will be held in 2024 and delegates to the GA1 may wish to review the proceedings of the previous conferences (especially the Third Review Conference) as well as the relevant documents being prepared in advance of the upcoming Review Conference. The UN Firearms Protocol went into effect in July 2005 after the ratifications of Poland and Zambia; as of January 2018, there are 115 parties (ratifications) to the Protocol, including the European Union, and an additional 8 countries that have signed but not yet ratified the Protocol. The United Nations Information Service (UNIS) summarized the UN Firearm Protocols thusly: “By ratifying the Firearms Protocol, States make a commitment to adopt a series of crime control measures and implement in their domestic legislation three sets of provisions: the first set of provisions establishing criminal offences related to illegal manufacturing of or trafficking in firearms on the basis of the Protocol requirements and definitions; the second set of provisions setting up a system of government authorizations or licensing, to ensure legitimate manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms; and the third set relating to the marking and tracing of firearms.”<sup>8</sup> A number of UN member states are establishing national registers of SALWs, often in response to civil society pressures in the aftermath of horrific instances of gun violence. At times, these registers are opposed by organizations representing gun owners and gun and ammunition manufacturers, including the politically powerful National Rifle Association (NRA) in the United States.

The UN has become increasingly concerned with the proliferation and illicit transfer of SALWs because of the horrible potential for renewed and continued violence because of the wide availability of these weapons. On December 4, 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 72/57 (A/RES/72/57) on “the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.” In the resolution, the General Assembly called upon “all states to implement the

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<sup>6</sup> *Euractiv*, “Frontex: Western Balkans main point of entry for arms smuggled into EU,” March 1, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> *Reuters*, “Libya: Deadly Blast at Army Depot,” November 28, 2013

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Information Service (UNIS), “United Nations Firearms Protocol Enters into Force,” July 3, 2005. Found at: <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2005/uniscsp517.html>.

International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,” known as the UN Firearms Protocol, and encouraged states to coordinate their national efforts with other countries and the UN.<sup>9</sup>

The Security Council has repeatedly alluded to and/or debated the problems posed by SALWs. On December 18, 2017, at its 8140<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Security Council discussed the “Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons” (S/2017/1025). In the report, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for universal adherence to and ratification of the respective international instruments, including the UN Firearms Protocol, as well as the International Criminal Police Organization Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System.<sup>10</sup>

On October 6, 2021, at its 8874<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Security Council further discussed the most recent “Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons” (S/2021/839). The representative of Kenya listed four imperatives to address this challenge. These included “a need for a comprehensive architecture built by collaboration and coordination among the relevant United Nations organs and agencies... the strength of regional initiatives... Council mandates must be strengthened... strengthening the capacity of United Nations missions and Governments in weapons and ammunition management.”<sup>11</sup> The Representative of Kenya was calling for the Security Council to make improvements to prevent this conflict from escalating.

The UN’s commitment to reducing the threat posed by the illicit trade in SALWs is evident in its previous, and upcoming, conferences on the Implementation of the Programme on Action regarding SALWs as well as sustained efforts to obtain universal adherence to the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. Increasing transparency in military budgets is essential for domestic civil society constituencies as well as reducing international uncertainty. Then Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted that UN member states were increasingly working with the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures, that “the average participation has remained at around 115 for the past five years, compared to less than 100 in the 1990s,” although “some member states have not been participating consistently, however, and some have never participated.”<sup>12</sup> Increasing transparency will not reduce SALW violence by itself, however; it must be accompanied by enhanced law enforcement efforts aimed at reducing human rights violations by both state and private actors. Delegates to GA1 may also wish to consider the best ways to increase contributions to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).<sup>13</sup>

The UN’s focus on reducing the deleterious effects of gun violence is exemplified by the efforts of Dr. Barbara Frey, the UN Special Rapporteur on Small Arms and Human Rights Violations from 2002-2006, and the Human Rights Council (HRC). The HRC, in a critical report by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, not only called for improved efforts by governments to enforce appropriate national and international regulations on the use of force by state agents but also that governments must focus on the actions of private

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<sup>9</sup> A/RES/72/57, “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,” December 4, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Antonio Guterres, “Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons,” S/2017/1025, December 6, 2017, p. 9.

<sup>11</sup> S/2021/839, “Security Council 8874<sup>th</sup> Meeting,” October 6, 2021.

<sup>12</sup> Kofi Annan, S/2006/109, February 17, 2006, p. 16.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR). Found at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/unscar/>

actors. One key step emphasized by the HRC and Interpol is the need for governments to “require that at the time of manufacture, each small arm has a unique permanent mark providing, at a minimum, the name of the manufacturer, the country of manufacture and the serial number.”<sup>14</sup> The activities of arms brokers and dealers are critical when devising comprehensive solutions to the illicit trade and trafficking of SALWs. Daniel Prins, Chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts on combating the illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, noted that “operating in a particularly globalized environment, illicit brokers – who, contrary to traders, often do not own the goods they deal in – capitalize on the increased opportunities in international transportation, finances, and communication.”<sup>15</sup> In recent years, dozens of UN member states have enacted legislation and national action plans to combat illicit arms brokering but these efforts must be truly universal to effectively ensure that conflicts do not further destabilize affected societies. The Group of Governmental Experts cited the work done at the regional level by the states of the African Union (AU), the Organization of American States (OAS), including the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as by the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union (EU), and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).<sup>16</sup>

Illicit arms brokering is especially pernicious because it frequently allows individuals and networks to routinely violate arms embargoes, fueling further violence in conflict ravaged societies. The Group of Governmental Experts asserted that “analyses of such activities revealed that illicit brokers typically conduct their business by exploiting legal loopholes, evading customs and airport controls, and falsifying documents such as passports, end-user certificates and cargo papers.”<sup>17</sup> States must cooperate effectively within the Security Council and Interpol in order to prevent illicit arms brokers from continuing to funnel weapons into wars and conflict zones, especially in violation of Security-Council-authorized weapons embargoes. Governments and law enforcement agencies may wish to consider screening and licensing all arms dealers and brokers as well as requiring that all arms dealers and brokers maintain current and accurate records of all transactions.

### **The Wassenaar Arrangement**

In 1996, many of the world’s leading arms exporting countries negotiated a voluntary arm reporting regime in the Dutch city of Wassenaar. There are currently 42 state parties to the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA) and representatives from these state parties convene in Vienna each December for the Wassenaar Plenary. At the 2007 Plenary, the representatives “reiterated that the Wassenaar Arrangement is open, on a global and non-discriminatory basis, to prospective

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<sup>14</sup> Mohammed Habib, “Adoption of the Report on the Fifty-Eighth Session to the Human Rights Council: Draft Report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” A/HRC/Sub.1/58/L.11/Add.1, August 24, 2006, p. 10.

<sup>15</sup> Daniel Prins, “Report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons,” (A/62/163), August 30, 2007, p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> Daniel Prins, “Report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons,” (A/62/163), August 30, 2007, p. 10.

<sup>17</sup> A/62/163, August 30, 2007, p. 7.

adherents that comply with the agreed criteria”<sup>18</sup> At the 2021 Plenary in December, “Participating States of the WA made certain decisions affecting the WA control lists, which [Bureau of Industry and Security] is now implementing via amendments to the [Commerce Control List].”<sup>19</sup> While the efforts of the Wassenaar Arrangement Secretariat and state parties have been crucial in limiting the trafficking of illicit SALWs, it is vital that 4 major arms exporters, Belarus, Brazil, China, and Israel, who have not signed the Wassenaar Arrangement do so as soon as possible. Heinz Gärtner of the Australian Institute for International Affairs argues that the Wassenaar Arrangement “relies on cooperation and voluntary compliance,” and that “the goods and technologies covered by the WA blur the distinction between military and civilian. The supply chain that the WA seeks to monitor and regulate consists almost exclusively of non-state actors: producers – suppliers – brokers – consumers – users – victims.”<sup>20</sup> Monitoring non-state actors will require greater participation but is an absolute must for successful implementation of any arms control or reduction initiative.

### **International Arms Trade Treaty**

In April 2013, the GA adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which includes small arms among the conventional weapons regulated by the treaty. “Importantly, States party to the Treaty will have a legal obligation to take measures to regulate the transit and trans-shipment of and brokering in conventional arms, as well as measures to prevent the diversion of arms and ammunition.”<sup>21</sup> Denise Garcia of the Academic Council for the UN, the Arms Control Association, and Northeastern University argues that the Arms Trade Treaty brought together human rights activists and weapons manufacturers and that this seemingly unusual alliance bodes well for its ultimate success.<sup>22</sup> Achieving universal adherence to, and ratification of, the ATT is clearly a vital priority for the UN, and progress to date includes 113 state parties with an additional 28 signatories.<sup>23</sup> With the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9) recently taking place in August 2023,<sup>24</sup> delegates may wish to review the content discussed and decided within this conference.

### **Practical Disarmament: Beating Swords into Plowshares or Works of Art**

Even though violence fueled by SALWs is widely recognized as a severe impediment to conflict resolution and sustainable development, impoverished and/or unemployed current and/or former combatants may feel that their personal economic viability, no matter how marginal to their societies’ macroeconomies, is only possible while armed. Their neighbors may simultaneously believe that their own security is unrealizable without maintaining their personal and familial arsenals. Practical disarmament programs provide direct economic incentives to turn these weapons into the authorities for money or other material payments or to turn the weapons themselves into civilian items, even works of art in some instances. National and local

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<sup>18</sup> Wassenaar Plenary, “Public Statement 2007 Plenary Meeting of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies,” Vienna, December 2007, p. 2

<sup>19</sup> *Federal Register*, “Implementation of 2021 Wassenaar Arrangement,” February 24, 2023.

<sup>20</sup> Heinz Gärtner, “The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA): How It is Broken and Needs to be Fixed,” *Defense and Security Analysis*, Vol. 24 No. 1, March 2008, p. 54.

<sup>21</sup> Ban Ki-moon, “Report of the Secretary-General: Small arms,” S/2013/503, August 22, 2013, p. 9.

<sup>22</sup> Denise Garcia “Disarming the Lords of War,” *Foreign Affairs*, December 23, 2014.

<sup>23</sup> “Treaty Status, *Arms Trade Treaty*, 2022.

<sup>24</sup> “Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9),” *Arms Trade Treaty*, 2022.

governments, law enforcement agencies, and their civil society partners, including NGOs, have undertaken practical disarmament initiatives throughout the world, ranging from gun buyback programs in Los Angeles, California<sup>25</sup> and in Argentina to turning weapons into art in Cambodia, Iraq<sup>26</sup> and Mozambique.<sup>27</sup> Critics of gun buyback programs argue that while these initiatives may be politically popular, they are either ineffective because they result in financial outlays without a real reduction in the number of weapons in circulation<sup>28</sup>, or in the case of people who mistrust and/or fear their respective national governments and/or the UN, these gun buyback programs represent attempts to disarm law-abiding citizens and force them to submit to greater governmental and/or international control.

### **Innovation for Universal Prosperity**

The need to curb illicit small arms trafficking is detrimental to the survival of the next generation. Children are continuously being caught in the crossfire, either directly or by being associated with groups active in illicit small arms trafficking. The locations where illicit small arms trafficking is high has caused children to be “more vulnerable to injury, death, displacement, psychosocial distress and recruitment and use by armed forces and groups,” along with “being used as suicide bombers and human shields, while schools continue to be attacked...and to be used for military purposes.”<sup>29</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) created the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict in 2002. This was created to limit the use of children as combatants, providing protection for children in war-involved areas. This practice, however, has not been heavily enforced. Little has been done by the Security Council and the international and national governments to protect these children from the consequences of illicit small arms trafficking. Delegates of the General Assembly First Committee may wish to focus on what the UN has done to protect the next generation but also how they have failed to do so. To be able to thrive and prosper, the UN must look towards enforcing protection for the next generation to be able to create a strong and innovative future generation.

### **Conclusion**

The tragic consequences stemming from the proliferation of SALWs, especially through illicit channels, must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Universality is clearly crucial to any comprehensive settlement or resolution of the problems caused by SALW violence; enforcing the laws in one country or region without attendant action in surrounding countries or regions will reduce the effectiveness of any efforts undertaken to quell this violence. As has become increasingly self-evident, any possible solution to the problems posed by SALWs, especially the illicit manufacture, trafficking, and distribution of SALWs, must address the actions of both state and private actors.

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<sup>25</sup> *Los Angeles Times*, “L.A. gun buyback nets 2,000 weapons – including a grenade,” May 9, 2010.

<sup>26</sup> *Al Arabiya*, “Iraqi students make art not war with weapons,” April 9, 2009.

<sup>27</sup> Martin Bailey, “Mozambican Sculptors Turn Weapons into Art,” *Forbes.com*, January 23, 2012.

<sup>28</sup> Alexander T. Tabarrok, “Oakland’s Gun Buyback Misfires,” *Contra Costa Times*, February 23, 2008.

<sup>29</sup> *United Nations*, “Small Arms: Children and Youth.” Found at:

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/small-arms-children-and-youth/#:~:text=In%20areas%20where%20illicit%20arms,by%20armed%20forces%20and%20groups>.



## **Guiding Questions for Debate**

1. What is the current situation in your country in regard to the prevalence of SALWs? What efforts has your country undertaken to prevent the illicit manufacture, distribution, and transfer of SALWs?
2. How can the countries who are already parties to the Wassenaar Arrangement convince other major arms producing and exporting countries to sign onto and abide by the terms of the Wassenaar Arrangement?
3. How can the UN enhance international and national capacities regarding sharing information about illicit brokering and transfer of SALWs, particularly weapons from conflict zones that resurface throughout neighboring regions and/or are sold and transported to other areas of the world?
4. How does the issue of protecting the next generation from illicit small arms trafficking differ between your country and those bordering your country?

## **Resource Review**

### **United Nations Documents**

United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/57, (A/RES/72/57), “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,” December 4, 2017.

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/6360049.84378815.html>

This General Assembly resolution mentions past resolutions created on the same topic and calls upon the states to look towards creating effective coordination processes that control the issue and protect those affected by it. This resolution spells out what the states must do to eradicate the illicit small arms trafficking.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/44, (A/RES/72/44), “The Arms Trade Treaty,” December 4, 2017. <https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/6128795.74298859.html>

This specific resolution focuses on the Arms Trade Treaty, so delegates should use this as a detailed account of the decisions made under this treaty. The resolution provides what has been asked of the States and what is expected to be the outcome, mentioning the presence of the Third and Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/32, (A/RES/72/32), “Compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments,” December 4, 2017.

<https://documentsddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/416/81/PDF/N1741681.pdf?OpenElement>

This broader resolution should be utilized as a base for research and information. Delegates should utilize this to further guide them on what their country’s participation within further treaties and agreements made to combat the issue.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/40, (A/RES/72/40), “Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them,” December 4, 2017.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/417/43/PDF/N1741743.pdf?OpenElement>

This resolution further recalls past resolutions on the same topic, so delegates should reference both this resolution and resolution 71/52 to gather further information on efforts made to assist states in combating this topic. This resolution focuses on the Secretary-General and states’ ability to assist other locations who are unable to protect themselves and control their illicit small arms trafficking.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/240, (A/RES/63/240), “Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms,” December 24, 2008.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/485/19/PDF/N0848519.pdf?OpenElement>

This specific resolution focuses towards establishing a strong arms trade treaty, deciding to make this the focus of the sixty-fourth session. Delegates should utilize this resolution to locate other resolutions mentioned within it and to guide their research in what their country has done to contribute to this treaty.

United Nations Security Council resolution 2220, (S/RES/2220), “Afghanistan,” March 16, 2015. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/150/19/PDF/N1515019.pdf?OpenElement>

The above resolution recalls many of the past resolutions on this topic and focuses on the detrimental effects of the misuse of small arms and light weapons. It should be utilized as a resource for understanding the reevaluation of the UN’s process to combat the issue of misuse of firearms and its focus on calling upon those able to contribute to combating this issue.

United Nations Security Council resolution 2117, (S/RES/2117), “Small arms and light weapons,” September 26, 2013.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/757831?ln=en>

This resolution was signed directly following the Arms Trade Treaty was established, so it should be utilized as a resource to provide information on what the treaty has done and has still yet to do. This resolution focuses on the transfer of weapons specifically and how to prevent the process from continuing.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1467, (S/RES/1467), “Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threats to peace and security in West Africa,” March 18, 2003.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/490259?ln=en>

The information presented within this resolution dates before many efforts were established to prevent the spread of illicit small arms. Therefore, the resolution should be used as a background for the issue and how the peak of the issue had been prefaced.

Antonio Guterres, “Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons,” S/2017/1025, December 6, 2017.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/en-yb-vol-42-2017-part2.pdf>

This report is found within the “Disarmament Yearbook” and provides in-depth information and explanations of a more specific weapon-related issue: nuclear weapons. The report itself explains the opinions of the Secretary-General and should be utilized as an important source to understand what the Secretary-General asks the UN to do to combat this issue.

Ban Ki-moon, “Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons,” S/2015/289, April 27, 2015.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/spv\\_7442.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/spv_7442.pdf)

This report focuses on the “human cost of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.” Delegates should utilize this to understand the opinions of other countries, and possibly their own, on dealing with the focus described above.

“Report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons,” S/2021/839, October 6, 2021.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_pv.8874.pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_pv.8874.pdf)

This report reveals the discussion and solutions made during a meeting, where representatives from certain countries discussed what the Secretary-General must accomplish. This report should be utilized to understand the progress made from another report years prior after the Armed Trade Treaty was put into effect.

Kofi Annan, "Report of the Secretary-General on small arms," S/2006/109, February 17, 2006. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N06/246/04/PDF/N0624604.pdf?OpenElement>

This report "reflects the initiatives undertaken to implement [Annan's] recommendations on ways and means in which the Security Council could contribute to dealing with the question of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in situations under its consideration. Delegates should utilize this report to review action taken to control the issue of small arms and how Anna's ideas have contributed to this success that would eventually lead to further, more important treaties and successes.

### **Guiding Questions of Position Papers**

1. What steps can the international community, including the UN and Interpol, do to persuade more UN member states to sign and ratify the relevant treaties and protocols on combating and preventing the illicit brokering and transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALWs)?
2. Has your country filed reports with the UN regarding its implementation of the Programme of Action as well as the registering and tracing of illicit weapons? If so, what specific reports and how have they contributed to the curbing of illicit small weapons?
3. How has your country contributed to the issue of protecting the next generation from illicit small arms trafficking? What can your country improve upon in regards to this issue?
4. What long term solutions does your country propose to maintain safety among children and civilians in areas with high levels of illicit weapons?

Image A- Status of ATT Participation

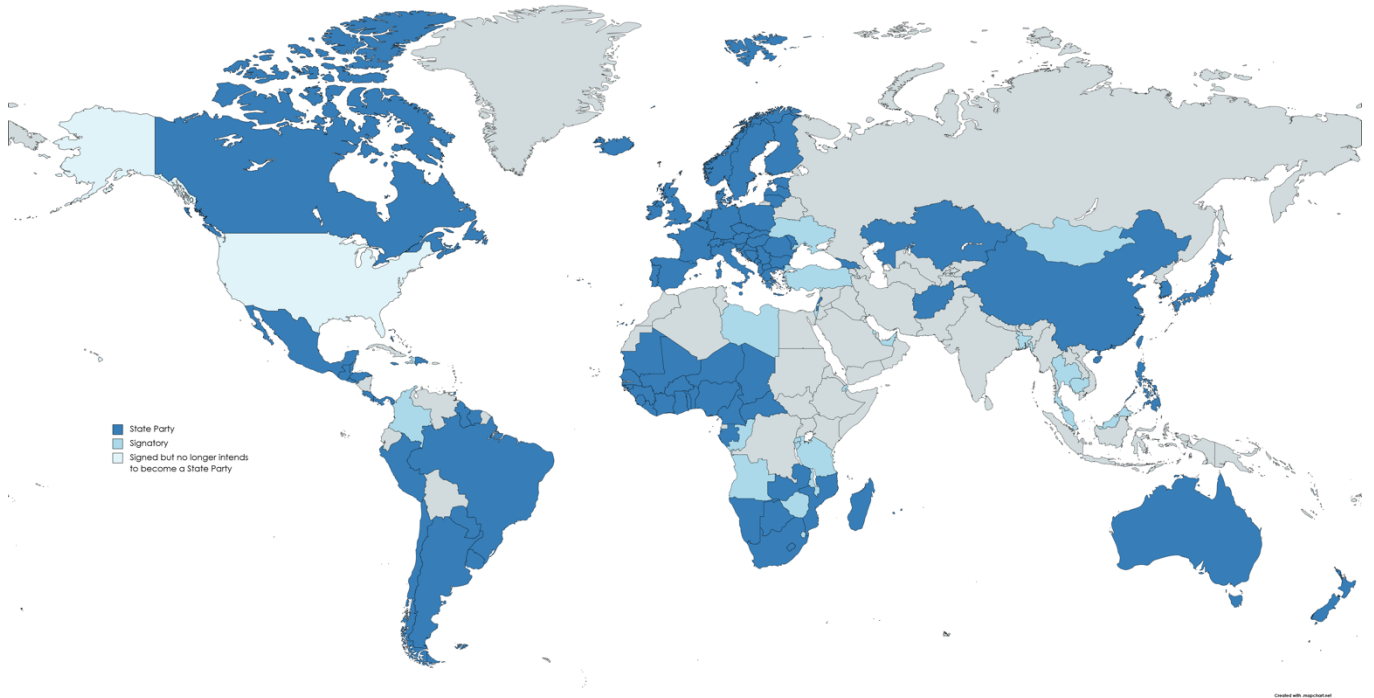


Image B- Number of Guns per 100 People by Country

