

YUNMUN XXXII

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

Topic: Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms

Delegates of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime,

A major issue plaguing the international community, especially relevant to our committee, is the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking of Firearms. The UNODC focuses on organized crime, which manifests itself in various forms. However, as we can see, a significant proportion of these crimes are linked to the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. Despite various implementations, no individual country or region in the world is free of this pervasive problem.¹ This issue encapsulates the entire spectrum of human security, rights, as well as having various social and economic consequences. The illegal arms trade opens a vacuum for terrorist organizations and violent crimes between civilians, as well as inhibiting governments' abilities to enforce laws. While previous attempts made by the United Nations have been able to temporarily slow this illegal activity, the international community has yet to eradicate this issue. Although the Arms and Trade Treaty (ATT)² has implemented regulations to reduce illicit small arms trade, this widespread availability of firearms has led to crime, terror, and political repression, as well as a violation of human rights.

The problem with the trafficking of small arms is multifaceted. While some firearms are manufactured licitly, many are traded and manufactured illicitly, thereby making the identification and tracing of illegal firearms deeply complex.³ Furthermore, many firearms are manufactured licitly, and then diverted to the illicit market; the extent of this problem can be seen through how deeply embedded illicit firearms are in the market.

As defined by the Firearms Protocol established by the UN, in article 3, the definition of a firearm is: "any portable barrelled weapon that expels, is designed to expel or may be readily converted to expel a shot, bullet or projectile by the action of an explosive, excluding antique firearms or their replicas. Antique firearms and their replicas shall be defined in accordance with

¹ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/firearms-study.html>

² <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/arms-trade-treaty-2/>

³ <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/armstrade/>

domestic law. In no case, however, shall antique firearms include firearms manufactured after 1899.”⁴ This definition itself may be the beginning of our discussion. As delegates, representing your countries you should consider if this definition is either too broad, or narrow. In addition to whether or not a redefinition of the term would be beneficial or detrimental to eradicating this issue we are currently facing.

As delegates of UNODC, you are tasked with finding a way to better ensure the security of the global community against this danger as it relates to disarmament and security. Please consider the following questions while researching the topic:

- Is the ATT an enforceable treaty? If so, why have we seen such an increase in the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of small arms?
- If the ATT is not an enforceable treaty, how, as a committee, can we implement a system to better tackle the problem?
- How can countries who have not yet made efforts to address this problem in their states be encouraged to do so?
- Is there a way in which we can track the small arms market to analyze and differentiate between licit and illicit firearms?
- How can we work to eradicate these pervasive issues which have various social, economic, and political consequences?

As a reminder, your goal is to represent your country's views rather than your own. Additionally, remember that YUNMUN has a zero tolerance for plagiarism and all papers will be checked via Turn-It-In. All delegates should read over the YUNMUN handbook's plagiarism policies before handing in their papers.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at abetshal@mail.yu.edu. I'm looking forward to reading your position papers!

Roni Etshalom

Chair, UNODC, YUNMUN XXXII

⁴ <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/firearms-trafficking.html>