

## **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs**

**Topic A:** Buying - Selling Weapons to Countries in Conflict: Enforcements and Regulations of Security Measures.

Dear delegates of UNODA,

For this model, you will be dealing with two major world issues: Civilian accessibility to Conventional Weapons and the Buying and Selling of Weapons to countries in conflict.

To reach viable and effective solutions on the topics, the UNODA Committee needs your ingenuity, diplomacy and problem-solving capacity, among other abilities. We encourage you to use these in the debate in order to increase your high standards and maturity in discussing this kind of topics, enhancing the outcome of our committee's resolutions.

Welcome to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tarbut Model of the United Nations!

Yours Sincerely,

*Moderator:* Vanessa Kershenobich.

*Head of Committee:* Jacobo Buzzali.

*Chair:* Andrea Bierz.

### **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs:**

UNODA was originally established as a department of the United Nations in 1998 as the department for disarmament affairs. Its main goal is to promote the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional and small weapons.

It is divided into a series of departments, which deal with specific topics:

- 1. Weapons of mass destruction:** Focuses in the non-proliferation and disarmament of

Chemical, Biological and Nuclear weapons

2. **Regional Disarmament:** Provides advice to member states as well as regional organizations to apply disarmament measures.
3. **Conventional Arms:** Concentrates in providing support for the disarmament of every weapon not considered a Mass destruction one, promotes the regulation of weapons flow and coordinates actions taken in regions of tension.

UNODA's current high representative, Ms. Angela Kane, assumed this position in 2012 and is currently supervising UNODA's work towards the establishment of a more peaceful and disarmed world.

*"I believe progress is possible — and it must be possible. The price of failure is too high and the benefits of success are overwhelmingly clear. We owe this to the scores of people who fall victim to illicit small arms every day, every hour, every minute."*

Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. New York, 19 March 2012.

### **Small Summary of the Topic:**

The arms industry is a global business that manufactures weapons and military technology and equipment. Armament production represents an enormous business and is one of the most important markets worldwide. As big as the market is, some of these exports tend to end up in conflict areas, which can detonate violence between groups such as guerrillas, civilian uprisings and terrorist groups that can jeopardize civilian security and represent a threat to human rights. It is therefore necessary to create effective worldwide mechanisms to ensure that the fate of exported armament can be controlled and violence diminished.

There are many treaties and agreements that enforce arms control, such as The Missile Technology Control Regime and The Chemical Weapons Convention, but there is one treaty that will help the most; The Arms Trade Treaty.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons, which has not entered into force. It has been signed by 116 countries and ratified by 11. This treaty regulates the international trade in conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships while promoting peace and security

by putting a stop to destabilizing arms flows to conflict regions. It will prevent human rights abusers and violators of the law of war from being supplied with arms, and it will help keep warlords, pirates, and gangs from acquiring these deadly tools.

### **Historical Background:**

Since the first fire arms appeared in the 13th century, they defined in an important scope the amount and range of power a country owned. Because of this, the production and ownership of weapons has been crucial for maintaining a country's survival and aspirations.

With the takeover of firearms, which eventually substituted bladed weapons, this situation became more evident and a weapon development race between world powers emerged, being the best example the nuclear tension period between USA and former USSR during the Cold War.

Even today, the world's most powerful countries happen to be the ones with the biggest and more complete arsenals. Therefore, weapon ownership is clearly a topic which has enormous relevance in the maintenance of peace in our planet, due to this UNODA was created in 1998 to promote the disarmament and control of weapons in the world, encouraging treaties which allow the control of weapon flow and decrease the amount of risk civilian population is exposed to.

Armament production represents an enormous business and is one of the most important markets worldwide. However, seventy five percent of world arms exports come from only six countries: China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom and USA. As big as the market is, some of these exports tend to end up in conflict areas, which can detonate violence between groups such as guerrillas, civilian uprisings and terrorist groups that can jeopardize civilian security and represent a threat to human rights. It is therefore necessary to create effective worldwide mechanisms to ensure that the fate of exported armament can be controlled and violence diminished.

### **Current situation:**

## *Arms Trade Treaty*

The roots of what is known today as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) can be traced back to the late 1990s, when civil society actors and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates voiced their concerns about the unregulated nature of the global arms trade and its impact on human security.

Adopted by the General Assembly on April 2nd, 2013, with the intention of regulating the international trade in conventional arms, small arms, battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships; it seeks to prevent armament to be acquired by anyone. Therefore, the real quest is to diminish the risk at which civilians in certain areas are exposed to.

Until August 9th, 2013, 115 states have signed the treaty, however only 8 have ratified it. The treaty is ought to enter into force 90 days after the 50th state has ratified it.

### **“Big Six” Exporting Countries:**

#### *China*

According to Amnesty International, China's arms exports over the past decade have tended to go to developing countries with poor human rights records. For example, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, DRC, Guinea, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Some of these exports include small arms export to Sudan (used by militia groups), rockets and anti-vehicle landmines, these used by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Gaddafi in Libya. Other rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs and mortar launchers were supplied to Zimbabwe.

China has not signed any international agreement dealing with arms trade and has intervened to narrow the Arms Trade Treaty's (ATT) scope in order to exclude small and light weapons.

#### *France*

Some of France's key customers are Singapore, UAE, Greece, some NATO partners, some countries in the Middle East, the North African region and Francophone countries. Recently, France and Russia have exchanged skills concerning with defense cooperation and naval equipment. It supplied weaponry and munitions to al-Gaddafi, ammunition and armored vehicles to both Egypt and Chad and munitions to Syria between 2005 and 2009.

### *Germany*

Germany is one of the largest EU exporters of arms to the Middle East and North Africa region. Other key customers include South Africa, Greece, Turkey and other NATO partners, as well as Asian and Latin American countries.

Although Germany has shown support towards strict arms exports criteria, it has supplied armament to areas where its usage could jeopardize human rights like Libya under al-Gaddafi, Egypt, Bahrain, Philippines and Guatemala. Germany supports the inclusion of small and light weapons in the ATT.

### *Russia*

Globally, Russia is the second largest arms trading country, speaking in terms of value of exports, and it will exert a major influence in ATT negotiations. Its main customers include India, Syria, Algeria, Myanmar, Venezuela, Sudan and many African states. However, Russia's arms industry has been falling behind in key technologies and it is seeking sophisticated partners and new markets for many products.

Russia is Syria's largest supplier, exports missiles and missile launchers, anti-tank missiles for the Russian-made T72 tank, and MIG jet fighters. Russia continues to supply helicopter gunships to Sudan, where they have been used to attack civilians in places like Darfur.

### *United Kingdom*

The UK is consistently ranked third, fourth or fifth globally, along with France and Germany, in terms of the annual value of its conventional arms exports.

The USA, India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa are key consumers as well as other NATO partners. It is also a major exporter to other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in sub-Saharan Africa. Generally it has been supportive of strict criteria for arms transfers; nevertheless the UK has supplied arms to countries where there is a substantial risk that they could be used to commit serious violations of human rights.

The UK has supplied arms to the Sri Lanka government, has supplied small arms, ammunition, munitions and armored vehicle equipment to Libya under al- Gaddafi as well as small arms to Bahrain and law enforcement equipment to Yemen.

### *United States*

The United States is by far the world's largest arms trader, accounting for around thirty per cent of conventional arms transfers in terms of value. Its position on the ATT is therefore essential.

The USA supplies arms to more than 170 countries and has a mixed record of suspending arms supplies on human rights grounds. It has restricted arms transfers to Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in addition to countries subject to UN arms embargoes. However, it has supplied arms to other countries, for example Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen, where there is a substantial risk that they could be used to commit or facilitate serious human rights violations.

Since October 2009, when the Obama administration reversed previous opposition to an ATT, U.S.A. support has been crucial in getting to the current negotiation stage.

### **Important to Check:**

- Arms Trade Treaty

## **Sources of Information and Research:**

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW/>

<http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/weapons/conventional-weapons/overview-conventional-weapons.htm>

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/regulations-and-controls/control-measures/civilian-possession.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/big-six-arms-exporters-2012-06-11>