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SOCOMUN XXXIII

NOT FRESHMAN B

TOPIC: SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION



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Hi delegates! My name is Diya Surana and I look forward to being your chair for the SOCOMUN conference this year! I am a senior at Santa Margarita, and I am in my fourth year within the MUN program. Because of MUN, I have gotten to know a lot of skills that I did not know about and some of those which I will keep with me throughout my life such as public speaking, research, analyzation, and collaboration. MUN has also helped me learn more about current events and how countries respond to them, something I did not before I joined. A little bit about me outside school, I love music, hanging out with friends, traveling, and going to the beach. My first conference was SOCOMUN so I cannot wait to be leading it! I look forward to meeting you all. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at socomunnotb@gmail.com.

Hello delegates! My name is Laura Liu, and I will be your Vice Chair at this year's SOCOMUN conference. This year I will be a junior, making it my third year in MUN since I started my freshman year. So far, I've attended 12 conferences, all of which I enjoyed, so I hope to help make this enjoyable for all delegates on this committee too. Outside of school I love listening to music, hanging out with friends, and swimming. Looking forward to seeing you all, good luck!

Hey guys, my name is Evan Michota, and I'm currently a sophomore at Santa Margarita. I am on the baseball team and have been playing baseball my entire life. I started doing MUN my freshman year and went to SOCOMUN and lots of other conferences. Outside of school and during the off season I like to play golf and other sports. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends, traveling to new places, and eating good food.

SOCOMUN is a learning conference that allows students to learn and understand the MUN procedures and protocols. It also teaches other key MUN skills such as research, presentation, and collaboration. The topic of the committee Not Freshman B is arms proliferation, one of the UNODC mandated areas. Below are some sources from the E4JMUN that give more information for this topic alongside past United Nations actions to resolve the issue of small arms proliferation.

For the committee, it will begin with rollcall where delegates' countries will be called one by one. Once called, they will pick up their placard and badge with their country name. Each delegate must respond with "present" or "present-and-voting" after their country name is called. After this, there is a motion to open debate and then another to open the speaker's list. For the speaker's list, delegates will raise their placard to be added. The delegate who opens the motion will have the ability to choose to present first or last. For the speech, delegates may walk to the front of the conference room to present. Following each speech, there will be two comments. Delegates who wish to comment will raise their placards to be chosen by chairs. Delegates are also able to motion for formal or informal caucuses. A formal caucus is a smaller speakers list where delegates are allowed to choose a topic and speaking time that spans a duration of time. Informal caucuses allow for delegates to move freely about the room and collaborate with others to ultimately form a resolution group. The resolution paper is a combination of the solutions presented by each delegate in the specific group. It will then be finalized, presented, and voted upon to pass or fail. One third of the group, rounded up, will present the paper to the committee. Once a resolution is read, delegates who are not from that group will be able to ask questions on the resolution. To enter the voting bloc, there will be a "for" and "against" speech on moving



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into voting bloc. In voting bloc, delegates will vote on all resolutions. Those that entered committee as “present-and-voting” must vote for or against while those who voted “present” may vote for, against, or abstain from. Committee ends with the vote to suspend debate. For any additional questions, feel free to reach out to socomunnotb@gmail.com.

E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC

These resources are given by the UNODC for the E4JMUN Program. They will provide information regarding the topic and will help with past UN actions.

[MUN Firearms \(unodc.org\)](http://unodc.org) – This delivers important information regarding the policies of firearms and the United Nations Involvement within the entire topic.

[Comparative Analysis of Global Instruments on Firearms and other Conventional Arms:](http://unodc.org)

[Synergies and Policy Options \(unodc.org\)](http://unodc.org) – This document gives examples of many treaties and agreements and the assessment of each of them. It analyzes the written documents as well as the ethical backgrounds of each.

Background

Small arms are classified as “medium machine guns, or as a loose rule, belt-fed machine guns” such as “pistols, revolvers, rifles, submachine guns, and light machine guns.” These weapons present a large issue as the proliferation of small arms is caused by their constant misuse and untraceable nature. Small arms are designed to be conducted by one person while light weapons are made to be used by two or more people. Small arms include “handguns, pistols, rifles, sub-machine guns, mortars, grenades, and light missiles.” Light weapons, on the other hand, include “heavy machine guns, mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank guns, and portable launchers of anti-missile.” The original creation of small arms was for self-protection but, with recent advancements, their use has drastically changed. These changed includes, but are not limited to, all matters related to violence. The proliferation of small arms is also constant within global trade, especially in areas of unrest or conflict. These areas have begun to host illegal arms trafficking in exchange for money or other goods. This threatens the peace within these areas and their surroundings. In fact, there has been about 124 million to 236 million Euros per year in the illegal arms trade, making it extremely dangerous. The misuse of these arms has also led to over 500,000 deaths every year.

Small arms have been around the world since the 1900’s, originating from the creation of many peacekeeping organizations. When the nuclear age began, the possibility to begin manufacturing these arms became a reality. The Soviet Union and United States began pushing for nuclear weapons which caused a surplus of other arms, like small arms, in the world. As many conflicts arose during that time period, ammunition was desired by all and acquired because of the proliferation. They contributed to the self-defense reaction and the violent crimes during that time. Many terrorist groups and other combined groups of people have gained access to these arms because of proliferation. The violation of human rights is the most vital issue that is discussed within the topic of small arms. The increased visibility of small arms created a black-market basis for the distribution of them, which destroys the image of the real markets while also bringing corruption into issue. One of the biggest issues is the manufacturing companies that create the availability of these destructive weapons. A UN member explained, “They have created a system where the access to such instruments is easy as any basic home goods.” Another effect beyond human rights violations is the economic growth or lack thereof. Many employers lose an estimated 535 million dollars annually, as a direct result of gun proliferation and



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violence. But promising studies show that multiple countries with more control and restriction on arms have a higher economic output, giving more insight into the laws and legislation that could potentially work globally. For example, China has one of the highest economies in the world and has complete control over ownership for non-law enforcement individuals.

The United Nations emphasizes preventing the misuse of small arms. Since different nations have different laws, this can prevent the global effort to reduce the effects of proliferation. This is especially problematic as laws play essential roles in ensuring the safety of people as proliferation increases. On top of legislation, multiple treaties and other agreements have tried to stop the spread of arms. One of them is the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which created a global standard for the delivery of conventional arms and prevention of trafficking. Furthermore, the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) also aimed to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation and increase disarmament. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) also works with international organizations and government entities to control the use of small arms.

The illicit arms trade fuels conflicts, perpetuates violence, and undermines development and human rights. The UN continues to call on member states to strengthen and implement arms control agreements, improve arms transfer controls, and combat illicit arms trafficking. The International Small Arms Control Standards also guides the trade and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs). The adoption of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects has created informational awareness within countries through discussion. It has also enacted legislation and measures to go against weapons like SALWs. Additionally, nations like the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) have taken great leaps towards the prevention of the proliferation of arms.

Potential Solutions

The key idea when forming solutions is to follow your country's policy. While this is true for solutions, research on this issue should consider several points of views and aspects. To create the solutions, it is best to address the aspects of who, what, where, when, and why. You should also discuss implementation thoroughly to strengthen your solutions. Additionally, you can reference past solutions to build off of, though you must add something new. It will be hard for other delegates to refute your solution if you make them strong and detailed. You can also use non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support your solution with more credibility, people, money, and knowledge. Funding is also something that all delegates do not need to focus on. It comes from the 5th Budgetary Committee in the United Nations that finances all passed solutions.



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Solution Ideas

Note, these solutions are ideas and not final solutions intended for delegates to copy exactly. Your solutions should reflect your research, creativity, and country policy.

One potential solution is to increase public awareness on the topic of arms. If people are in a scenario where they need to know how to disarm someone or use it on someone, information could be taught. It could also bring about education regarding the misuse of arms and to increase responsibility for reporting individuals who are unwilling or unable to use it correctly. That is for the cases in which arms laws are limited and free access is a right. If someone is wanting to report someone anonymously, law enforcement entities can provide a form to fill out electronically or physically regarding a specific scenario or person.

A second solution could be to create a psychological evaluation of the people buying a firearm to see if they are applicable. This can be encouraged through incentives to companies or sellers. This solution is meant as a preemptive action to prevent the misuse and proliferation of small arms. This especially can crack down on violence as it works to ensure unstable individuals cannot obtain these weapons.

A third and final solution could be the laser tagging each arm from the manufacturing company. This can play a big role in tracking and preventing the illegal trade of arms. With each gun, piston, etc. being engraved with a unique and individual code, the process of finding an individual weapon can be much faster and prevent many more issues that could arise. The database can be used as a form of tracking as well as reassurance to countries as well the United Nations with global issues. Many countries have started using this type of tracking and enforcing this through The UN office of disarmament affairs can be able to enforce this for each country with practices and help them come from whatever position they are currently into transparency and deliverance of this program. Again, keep in mind your country's policy and current situation when discussing solutions and researching.

Questions to Consider

Here are some questions to guide you while researching. You are not required to formally answer these, though they are helpful to consider.

1. How does your country's policy influence your solutions? If any difference is made, how will you plan to accommodate other countries who do not have similar policy?
2. Are your solutions made to last a considerably long time or are they for immediate relief?
3. How will technological advances influence the way your solutions work?
4. How does the legal use of arms influence the economic output of nations?
5. How does illegal use of arms influence the economic output?
6. How can arms be used to support the economy with sustainable measures?
7. How have SALWs affected your nation or surrounding nations?
8. Are there any organizations/NGOs that are working similarly to your policy? How can you use them in your solutions?
9. Can the use of AI or other newer technologies affect the way small arms are dispersed?



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