



American Model United Nations
General Assembly First Committee

GA First/I/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly First Committee

The General Assembly First Committee,

1 *Recalling* Resolution 73/69 of 13 December 2018, as well as other previous resolutions on the illicit trade in
2 small arms and light weapons in all their aspects,

3 *Emphasizing* that approximately ninety percent of casualties in worldwide conflicts result from small arms
4 and light weapons,

5 *Observing* that these small arms create a cycle of violence and economic exploitation that further destabilizes
6 conflict areas and leads to further violation of human rights,

7 *Recognizing* that the proliferation of the illicit trade of small arms particularly impacts conflict areas and
8 has a disproportionate effect on the escalation of violence against women and marginalized groups in such areas,

9 *Noting* that small arms are defined by the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) as "weapons designed for
10 individual use. They include, *inter alia*, revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns,
11 assault rifles and light machine guns.",

12 *Further reiterating* that light weapons are defined in the ITI as "weapons designed for use by two or three
13 persons serving as a crew, although some may be carried and used by a single person, and that this includes weapons
14 such as medium and heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft weapons, rocket launchers, etc.",

15 *Aware* of the aims of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the ITI, which include better tracking and account-
16 ability on arms imports and exports, and furthering international cooperation in the sharing of data and resources
17 on this issue,

18 *Recognizing* that compliance with and implementation of the ATT and ITI is incomplete,

19 *Affirms* the importance of the ATT and the need for all United Nations Member States to ratify the treaty
20 to help curb the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, with specific measures to keep in mind such as,

21 *Alarmed* by the continued issues that arise from limiting the flow of firearms and other weapons to and from
22 conflict zones, especially after a conflict has concluded,

23 *Noting* the need for a centralized and cooperative base that focuses on tracking all arms that are produced
24 and distributed, not only in areas of conflict but also arms utilized for security and other purposes,

25 1. *Encourages* Member States to utilize international cooperation and to examine technologies that would
26 improve the tracing and detection of illicit small arms and light weapons, as well as measures to facilitate the transfer
27 of such technologies;

28 2. *Affirms* the importance of the ATT and the need for all United Nations Member States to ratify the
29 treaty to help curb the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, with specific measures to keep in mind such as:

30 (a) Encouraging states to go above and beyond the minimum requirement stated in the ATT in
31 tracking exports of arms from their borders;

32 (b) Continuing to respect the sovereignty of Member States and their right to regulate small arms
33 within their borders;

34 (c) Recognizing that non-signatory nations of the ATT can still use the terms and ideals defined in
35 the treaty as guidelines to help reduce the illicit small arms trade;

36 3. *Recommends* that Member States accept international assistance regarding regional and national control
37 of mandatory marking of imported and exported firearms to ensure peace and stability;

38 4. *Calls upon* Member States to comply with existing multilateral agreements including the ITI by submitting
39 their required implementation progress reports;

40 5. *Encourages* the acknowledgment of advances in technology and manufacturing methods such as 3D
41 printing and low-cost custom computer numerical control machines can allow nefarious actors to manufacture or
42 assemble untraceable firearms:

43 (a) Further reiterating the need for nations to be aware of these technologies and how they can affect
44 the illicit small arms trade in their nations;

45 (b) Aware of specific emerging technologies such as metal 3D printing that, in the future, could
46 further escalate the problem of the manufacturing of illicit and untraceable firearms;

47 (c) Anticipates that this technology will only further improve making it increasingly difficult to track
48 firearms and prevent criminals from obtaining firearms;

49 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of properly securing and tracking stockpiles of surplus ammunition and arms
50 so as to not let unauthorized non-state actors or those with nefarious purposes gain access to said stockpiles;

51 7. *Reminds* Member States of the need to dismantle and remove arms, especially illicitly acquired arms
52 used by non-state actors, from past conflict zones and areas bordering current conflict zones so that they do not fall
53 into the wrong hands and result in further casualties and the hindrance of reconciliation and reconstruction in these
54 areas;

55 8. *Recommends* to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the creation
56 of United Nations on-site response centers in conflict areas for the purpose of:

57 (a) Serving as trauma centers for women and children affected by civil and domestic violence affiliated
58 with the trade of small arms;

59 (b) Collection of data in the field for the purpose of creating regional reports to further the United
60 Nations' understanding of the arms trade;

61 9. *Endorses* Non-Governmental Organizations who strive to impartially provide resources, track small arms
62 and light weapons, and promote methods of stopping the illicit arms trade such as:

63 (a) International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA);

64 (b) Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies (IDDS);

65 (c) Small Arms Working Group (SAWG);

66 (d) Small Arms Survey;

67 10. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the
68 capacity of developing nations and conflict zones to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

69 11. *Urges* the creation of a universal standard with the input of all Member States while accounting for
70 national sovereignty through a summit where Member States can define the issue and address the root causes of
71 illicit small arms and light weapons trade;

72 12. *Further encourages* the future development of cyber security programs to help track and mitigate illicit
73 arms trade through the internet.

Passed, Yes: 50 / No: 17 / Abstain: 8