

Sishu Griha Model United Nations **2014**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE:
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY [DISEC]

BACKGROUND GUIDE

AGENDA: THE LINKS BETWEEN DRUG
TRAFFICKING AND SMALL ARMS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates it is my immense honour and privilege to chair the Disarmament and International Security Committee at SGMUN 2014. My association with Sishu Griha goes back to the first session of SGMUN where I was the head of press. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Principal and staff of Sishu Griha and Nishanth for having me back this year.

I am an old student of Bishop Cotton Boys' School where I learnt how to MUN. Currently I am a law student at Symbiosis Law School in Pune.

I am really happy to convey that we have two very capable Vice Chairs on board with us to help see us through. At the end of two days I want us to pass an extremely comprehensive resolution which will reflect on our committees work during the sessions. But more importantly I want all of you to leave SGMUN as better MUNners.

Im going to be very blunt and say on record that in my committee it doesn't matter whether you're a Seasoned MUNer or a first timer. The idea that first timers cannot win MUNs is utter nonsense and your vice chair and I stand testimony to that. At the DISEC I don't want MUNers who are flamboyant with their procedure but delegates who are going to think out of the box and bring me original solutions.

The topic which you are going to discuss is one which combines two of the most debated DISEC agendas at MUNs all around the world. Most resolutions that flow from these conferences have identified a link between the two problems but rarely have DISEC committees committed two days to it. It is my belief that if we study and debate the two topic areas together you delegates will be able to give us better solutions and the scope for you chaps to learn is paramount.

Lastly I would like to add that this guide though thoroughly researched only serves as start to your research. The research links posted by your vice chairs on the topic areas are extremely detailed and I encourage you to go through them apart from your other research

Looking forward to meeting all of you,

Sanjit Ganguli

THE DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

The UN General Assembly is made up of 30 committees, 6 of which can be considered as 'the main committees' of the GA. The first committee of the General Assembly is the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC).

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

DISEC deals with issues regarding the promotion, establishment, and subsequent maintenance of global peace while simultaneously working to prevent weapons proliferation. According to Article 26 of United Nations Charter, DISEC's mandate is "to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources."

Under the UN Charter, all member states and observers of the United Nations are automatically part of the first committee of the General Assembly, and have an equal vote. Documents drafted by this committee require a simple majority to be passed. Like the other committees of the United Nations General Assembly, DISEC is unable to impose sanctions, authorize armed intervention, or pass binding resolutions. That being said, DISEC has submitted recommendations to the United Nations Security Council and to the UN Secretariat on several occasions, this makes DISEC one of the main UN actors currently playing a considerable role in the vision for global peace.

TOPIC AREA: THE LINKS BETWEEN DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SMALL ARMS TRADE

The illicit small arms trade forms part of an extensive shadow economy in which weapons are one of many commodities, including drugs, timber, precious stones, endangered species, and even human beings. Rebel groups, non-state actors and various forms of organized crime are part of and use the profits made from the sale of these commodities to purchase weapons to protect their operations. Furthermore, these complex networks are deeply integrated into the global economy and those who take advantage of them are experts in finding new innovative ways to exploit both the legal and the illegal side. The illicit drug trade is often carried out by highly sophisticated organizations that are in many ways comparable to multinational companies. There is evidence that many non-state actors use the illicit drugs trade as a source of income to fund their armed struggles.

The problem is global and drugs are exchanged for arms in many parts of the world. For instance, around 30 percent of the cocaine consumed annually in Europe passes through West Africa. It is common that humans are taken advantage of in this process since most of these drugs are transported to Europe on commercial flights by drug mules, which is extremely dangerous and often even life-threatening. Upon arrival, the cocaine is predominantly distributed by West African criminal networks working throughout Europe.

Drug trafficking routes often overlap gun trafficking routes perfectly and the reason behind this is that the same methods, actors and networks are involved. The supply and demand side is reversed, given that arms production and the demand for illicit drugs are found in the north, whereas illicit drugs production and the demand for weapons are found in the South. There is a tendency among the countries setting the agenda in the West to focus on the demand for weapons and the supply of drugs, hence placing the principal responsibility for the problems which arise on developing countries in the South. This leads to an unbalanced debate on supply and demand as well as difficulties in taking proper political responsibility. To address the problems arising from the illicit trade of small arms and drugs, equal attention must be given to the supply and demand for both of these commodities in both the North and the South.

Many of the agents involved in the illegal drugs trade acquire arms; from the primary production stage where farmers possess small arms, to the couriers accompanied by armed bodyguards, to the more heavily armed cartels which use more sophisticated automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Arms can also be traded for human beings, with women and children the usual victims. There is evidence to suggest that children in some countries are abducted and used not only in criminal and armed activities but also being victims of human trafficking or exchanged for guns.

Efforts to control small arms proliferation are failing for a variety of reasons. The relationship between drugs and arms is complex and the networks involved in trafficking are poorly understood and information about them largely inadequate.

More joint operations together with border cooperation between state agencies such as customs, the police and other actors as well as improved border protection is necessary. The Mérida Initiative is an ongoing cooperation between the United States and Mexico that broadens and deepens their bilateral cooperation against transnational drug trafficking organizations and organized crime, as well as the illicit transfer of weapons. There is a need to deepen mutual border control, using existing methods, by prescribing responsibilities more efficiently and reinforcing laws. In the case of the Merida initiative, a stronger focus on the part of the United States to curb the flow of weapons, and by Mexico to curb the flow of drugs and human trafficking, could be more efficient than the strategy currently being pursued.

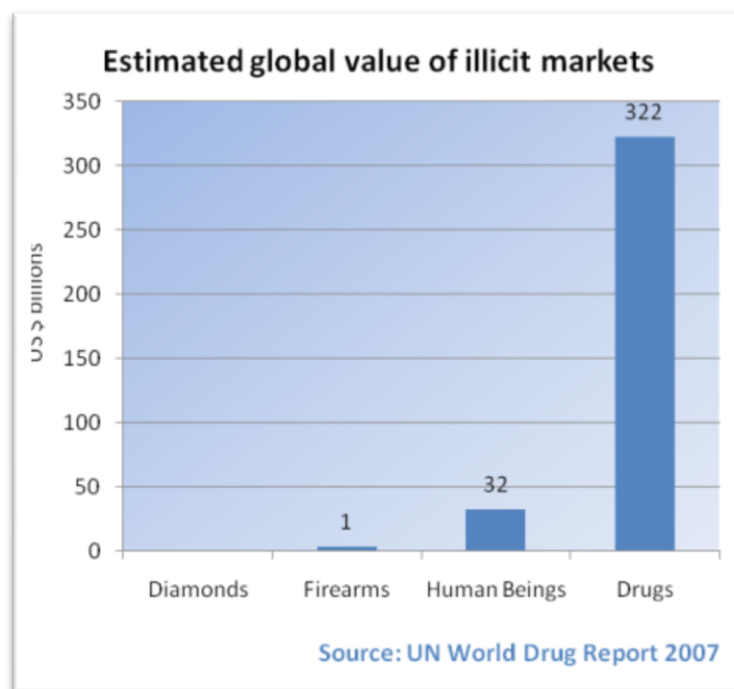
Inequality and exclusion are main factors fuelling the trafficking of arms and drugs. The arms trade has no respect for human security and social welfare. Trafficking also has an impact on human rights, education and discrimination, mainly victimizing women and children.

Even though countries have laws which forbid the arms and drugs trade there are often difficulties in enforcing these laws. Non-enforced laws are often due to corruption among government officials which is another of the factors fuelling the drugs and arms trade.

The trades in illicit drugs and arms have the potential to continue to spiral, partly due to the constantly changing nature of criminal networks. This is also due to factors related to globalization, such as the ability to circulate capital, people and information from one country to another. Non-state actors constantly change the methods they use for illicit trafficking and, as such, addressing the issue will require not only regulatory measures but also cooperation and the continuous exchange of information.

THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE:

The illicit drugs trade (also referred to as the illegal drugs trade or drug trafficking) is one of the largest global businesses, at some \$322 billion, according to the UN World Drug Report, 2007. It attracts criminal organizations because the potential profits are significantly more than from other criminal commodities:



As the 2007 report notes (p.170), the high value is understandable because “unlike human beings, diamonds or firearms, the drug supply is consumed each year and in need of continuous renewal.”

It is also a global issue because:

Profits [from illicit drugs] accrue to a wide range of actors, from poor rural farmers to affluent urban dealers. But, in many instances, the single most profitable sector of the market is the process of transporting the drugs internationally. The funds raised by trafficking groups can be used to underwrite other criminal activity and even political insurgency.

— World Drug Report 2007, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (p.170)

The main illicit drugs are the opiates (mostly heroin), cocaine, cannabis, and ATS (amphetamine-type stimulants) such as amphetamines, methamphetamine and ecstasy.

The UN estimates that some 200 million people (4.8% of the world's population aged 15-64) use illegal drugs annually with 25 million being classed as problem users (0.6%). (See p.9 of the report.)

A common approach (and one taken by countries such as the United States and international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) is that drugs should be made illegal and there should be strong emphasis on clamping down on the illegal drugs trade. In many countries, this has led to extra law-enforcement costs and overflowing prisons. (The drugs problem is seen as a criminal issue.)

The Netherlands, however, has taken a different approach and partly decriminalized certain “soft” drugs in small proportions. (The drugs problem is seen primarily as a health issue.) This has had a knock-on effect of “drug tourism” where some tourists go there to get substances.

Banning drugs has failed, in the opinion of many experts. However, instead of some “free-for-all”, regulating drugs would take the market away from the criminals, dramatically reducing the harms caused by prohibition (because prohibition leads to lots of death from the increased crime and health issues that results from criminals controlling the market).

THE ILLEGAL ARMS TRADE:

The growing availability of small arms has been a major factor in the increase in the number of conflicts, and in hindering smoother rebuilding and development after a conflict has ended. It is estimated, for example, that:

- There are around half a billion military small arms around the world;
- Some 300,000 to half a million people around the world are killed by them each year;
- They are the major cause of civilian casualties in modern conflicts.

Civilians are affected directly:

- Over 80 percent of all these casualties have been civilian
- 90 percent of civilian casualties are caused by small arms. This is far higher than the casualty count from conventional weapons of war like tanks, bomber jets or warships.
- Estimates of the black market trade in small arms range from US\$2-10 billion a year.
- Every minute, someone is killed by a gun
- At least 1,134 companies in 98 countries worldwide are involved in some aspect of the production of small arms and/or ammunition.
- Civilians purchase more than 80% of all the firearms that are currently manufactured worldwide each year.
- There are at least 639 million firearms in the world today, of which 59% are legally held by civilians.

Some of the factors include that small arms are often

- Long-life;
- Low maintenance;
- Relatively cheap and easily available;
- Highly portable and so easily concealable.

The above therefore makes it easy for things like:

- Illicit trafficking;
- Operation by young children. (There are an estimated 300,000 child soldiers in the world.)

It has been estimated that there are now about 500 million small arms and light weapons in circulation in the world, one for every twelve people. Gone long ago is the time when we Europeans could subdue other continents because we had firearms and the local peoples had not. In 1999 it was reported that an AK-47 assault rifle could be bought in Uganda for the price of a chicken.

— Robert Neild, *Public Corruption; The Dark Side of Social Evolution*, (London: Anthem Press, 2002), p. 131

As the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs describes, Small arms and light weapons destabilise regions. This is because they

- Spark, fuel and prolong conflicts;
- Obstruct relief programmes;
- Undermine peace initiatives;
- Exacerbate human rights abuses;
- Hamper development; and
- Foster a “culture of violence.”

The Control Arms Campaign also notes that

... illicit drugs production thrives on territory outside the control of recognised governments, and 95 per cent of the world’s production of hard drugs takes place in contexts of armed conflict. Valuable natural resources are illegally exploited by armed groups and their state sponsors, ruining millions of lives and impeding local development, as has occurred in DRC. International trade suffers and illicit markets thrive, to the detriment of national economies.

— *Towards an Arms Trade Treaty; Next steps for the UN Programme of Action, Control Arms*, July 2005, p.8

However, as the UN also adds, “unlike nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, there are no international treaties or other legal instruments for dealing with these weapons, which States and also individual legal owners rely on for their defence needs.”

QUESTIONS THE RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QURMA):

- What are the key links between the Illicit Drugs and Arms Trade networks?
 - What loopholes exist in presently existing international framework that prevents them from being effective?
 - What is to be done with the victims of these activities with regard to rehabilitation on the international scale?
 - How are we going to efficiently manage legally produced weapons to ensure that they don't reach the wrong hands?
 - In what way are we going to Demobilise and Disarm ex-combatants and weapons recovered in peacekeeping missions?
 - Who will fund anti-drug trade and anti-arms trade activities and in what manner will the efficient use of funds be ensured?
 - What sort of International Collaboration is to be coordinated to crack down on illegal arms and drug trades?
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GIVEN BELOW ARE CERTAIN LINKS TO HELP DELEGATES IN THEIR RESEARCH:

1. CIA World fact book:

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

(To know about the delegate's country and any other country and basic facts them)

2. Reuters and BBC:

<http://www.reuters.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/>

Official Government Reports and Press Releases.

(For any sort of reports and press releases, only reports from these sites and official UN reports will be considered)

3. Topic Related Research:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/>

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

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

(Look up the topic and see what has already been done with relation to the topic. Look into older Resolutions if you want and analyse them to better your understanding)

4. MUN rules of procedure and general guidelines and help:

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation>

(This should give you a basic idea of procedure although there may be a few minor variations)