



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# SOCOMUN XXXII

## NOT FRESHMAN B

TOPIC: SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION



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## NOT Freshman B Small Arms Proliferation

Hello delegates! My name is Jackson Thun and I am going into my junior year at SM. I am going to be your chair at the upcoming SOCOMUN conference and hope to make it an enjoyable experience for everyone! I have been in Model United Nations since freshman year and have attended 8 conferences with multiple awards. MUN has shaped my view on the world by introducing me to international situations and issues that I was previously oblivious to. I have used the program to become a hard worker and shape my leadership skills. Outside of school, I go to the gym, hang out with friends, and play guitar. SOCOMUN of freshman year was the first MUN conference I ever attended and I can't wait to lead the conference I started with. I look forward to meeting you all in committee! If any questions arise, you can contact me at [socomunnotb@gmail.com](mailto:socomunnotb@gmail.com).

Hi delegates! My name is Diya Surana, and I will be your Vice Chair for the upcoming SOCOMUN conference! I have been in MUN since my freshman year, and I really love it. I am now entering my junior year with this being my third year doing MUN. MUN has helped me learn a lot more about some topics that I never knew. I love listening to music and some of my favorite artists are Drake, Yeat, and Metro Boomin. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Hello delegates! I am Laura Liu and will be your rapporteur in this committee. This year I am a sophomore at Santa Margarita and this is currently my second year being involved in MUN. Besides MUN, I've also involved myself in clubs like JSA, FBLA, and debate, all allowing me to further develop my skills in MUN. SOCOMUN was an amazing learning experience for me my first year and I'm hoping it will be for you all as well. Looking forward to seeing you all, good luck!

The SOCOMUN conference allows students to learn and practice the MUN procedures and protocols alongside other key skills such as research, presentation, and collaboration. The topic of the committee is arms proliferation, one of the UNODC mandate areas. Below this introduction are resources from the E4JMUN that provide background for the arms proliferation topic as well as the course of action the United Nations has taken. The committee will begin with rollcall where delegates will be called one by one and pick up a placard and badge labeled with the name of their country. The delegate must also state if they wish to be marked as present or present-and-voting. After motions to open debate and create a speaker's list pass, the delegates will raise their placards to indicate their wish to be added on to the speaker's list. The delegate that motions to open the speaker's list will have the ability to choose to be first or last on the list. When the delegate is reached on the list, they will walk to the front of the room and present their speech. After each speech, two delegates will be picked to give a comment on the previous speaker's words. After the two comments, delegates are able to motion for informal or formal consultations. During the former, delegates will move freely around the room discussing country policy as well as finding countries of similar position regarding the topic. During these consultations, delegates will begin to form groups with similar policies and solutions called resolution groups. These groups will begin work on a resolution that combines each delegates



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ideas into a cohesive plan that will eventually be voted on during formal debate. There will be a motion to enter formal debate where the delegates will present the resolutions created and questions will be asked of the resolution. Then, four delegates will give speeches, two for and two against, regarding entering voting bloc. During voting bloc, delegates will vote for, against, or abstain for each resolution. The committee ends with a suspension of debate.

## **UNODC: E4JMUN Resources**

The sources below have been provided by the UNODC for the E4JMUN program. These resources will help greatly with research and UN involvement with the topic.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/firearms.html> - This document relays essential information regarding arms and the UN action on the topic.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/firearms.html> - The link contains further information regarding arms proliferation and studies done by the UN pertaining to illegal arms and their distribution.

## **Background:**

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are generally defined as individually operated kinetic projectile firearms and the UNODC similarly defines them as “weapons designed for individual use. They include, inter alia, revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns.” SALW are most commonly armed with bullets, however the term also includes other projectiles such as grenades and shrapnel. The distinction made between small arms and heavy weapons is the need for transportation as small arms are serviced by one or a few individuals on foot whereas heavy weapons require a mount on vehicles, vessels, or other means of transportation other than by foot. The number of SALW in global trade is difficult to track due to the number of illegal trades and transactions occurring without proper documentation. However, as of 2017, it’s estimated approximately 1 billion SALW are in circulation, accounting for both legal and illegal arms. An illegal firearm is a firearm that was purchased without official permission and produced over the licensed amount. The proliferation of SALW is a major global security challenge. The proliferation of these weapons has contributed to a range of problems, including armed conflict, terrorism, organized crime, gender-based violence, and human rights abuses.

The SALW problem is not new, but its scope and impact have increased in recent decades. The end of the Cold War in the early 1990s saw the proliferation of SALW being exacerbated as surplus weapons from former Soviet and Eastern European countries flooded the global market. At the same time, the breakup of Yugoslavia and the wars in Africa fueled the demand for SALW, as groups and individuals sought to acquire weapons for self-defense, territorial control, and profit. The SALW issue has a range of negative consequences. First, the widespread availability of SALW has contributed to an increase in armed violence and conflict. SALW have been used in a range of conflicts, from small-scale disputes to large-scale wars. In



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many cases, the proliferation of SALW has fueled or exacerbated existing conflicts and prolonged the suffering of civilian populations. Furthermore, SALW are often used by non-state actors such as terrorist groups, organized crime groups, and rebel forces. These actors use SALW to carry out attacks, intimidate populations, and generate revenue. The proliferation of SALW has made it easier for these groups to acquire weapons, which has increased their capacity to carry out violent acts. SALW also contribute to a range of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, forced displacement, and sexual and gender-based violence. In conflict situations, SALW are often used to target civilians, including women and children. The use of SALW has a disproportionate impact on marginalized populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and minority groups. Finally, SALW have a significant economic impact. The proliferation of SALW has created a lucrative black market for weapons, which generates significant profits for illicit actors. The illegal trade in SALW undermines legitimate markets, fuels corruption, and diverts resources away from social and economic development.

The United Nations has been actively involved in addressing the proliferation of SALW through a range of initiatives and programs. The UN recognizes the threat to international peace and security the proliferation of SALW poses and has been working to develop strategies to address the issue. One of the key initiatives of the UN is the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was adopted in 2001. The Programme of Action outlines a range of measures to address the SALW problem, including the strengthening of national legislation and regulatory frameworks, the implementation of effective export and import controls, the promotion of disarmament and the destruction of surplus weapons, and the prevention of diversion of SALW to illicit actors. The Programme of Action also calls for international cooperation and assistance to help countries implement these measures. The UN has also established the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), which guide governments and organizations on best practices for controlling the SALW trade. The ISACS covers a range of topics, including legislation and regulation, stockpile management, and marking and tracing of SALW. In addition, the UN has established several mechanisms to monitor and assess the SALW problem. These include the UN Register of Conventional Arms, which provides information on the international transfer of major conventional weapons, and the UN Small Arms Survey, which collects and analyzes data on the global SALW trade. The UN has also taken steps to address the specific challenges posed by SALW in conflict and post-conflict settings. This includes supporting disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs for ex-combatants, and promoting community-based approaches to SALW control. The UN also supports efforts to combat the trafficking of SALW by addressing the root causes of illicit trade, such as poverty, inequality, and corruption through the other SDGs.

### **Possible Solutions:**





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It is important to keep your country's policy in mind while thinking of possible solutions as it is essential to stay within your country's view on the matter. Use your research to create solutions that address all aspects of the issue. The following solutions are possible ideas to help progress your own solutions.

To address the proliferation of SALW, there are several potential solutions that could be implemented. One approach is to strengthen existing laws and regulations on firearms. Governments can implement better background checks, registration requirements, and restrictions on the types of weapons that can be purchased or possessed. Governments could also increase penalties for illegal firearms possession and trafficking, as well as improve enforcement efforts to prevent illegal trade. In addition, governments can strengthen the implementation of export controls, as well as monitor and control the production, brokering, transfer, and transit of SALW.

First, a viable solution could be the creation of a UN framework that could require numerous items for countries to enforce. These enforcement measures might entail manufacturers of light weapons and small arms need to include a unique identification code/number secretly hidden on the gun through laser engraving technology. This solution could be effective because it would allow government officials and the UN to identify illicitly manufactured guns (as they would not have the engravings) or be able to track a stolen gun to its owner (as the laser engravings cannot be removed with acid, replicated, scratched off, etc.). Moreover, when the weapons are traded across countries, the identification numbers can help border authorities find trafficking routes of illegally obtained weapons.

Laser engravings on SALW can play a vital role in tracking and identifying these weapons, which can help prevent their illicit transfer and use. The use of laser engravings can allow for the marking of each individual weapon with a unique code, which can be easily scanned and matched against a database. This can enable law enforcement and other authorities to quickly and accurately identify the origin and ownership of SALW, which can be critical in ownership of SALW. In turn, this ownership can be critical in preventing their illicit transfer and use. In recent years, a number of countries have begun to adopt laser engraving as a standard practice for marking SALW. For example, the European Union has introduced regulations requiring all new firearms to be marked with a unique code using laser engraving technology. The United States has also implemented similar regulations for exported firearms. These efforts are an important step towards enhancing the ability to track SALW and prevent their proliferation.

In addition to the use of laser engraving, increasing international cooperation through the United Nations can also play a critical role in preventing the proliferation of SALW. The UN can provide a platform for countries to share information and best practices for controlling the trade of SALW. It can also facilitate international assistance to countries in need of support to implement effective SALW control measures. This can include support for the development of effective legislation and regulatory frameworks, capacity building for law enforcement and other authorities, and support for disarmament and demobilization efforts in conflict and post-conflict settings. Furthermore, the UN can help to promote greater accountability for the transfer and use of SALW. This can be achieved through the establishment of international standards and norms



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for SALW control, as well as through the development of mechanisms to monitor and assess compliance with these standards. Through these efforts, the UN can help to create a more robust and effective system for preventing the proliferation of SALW and promoting global peace and security.

Financial matters are not the main topic of the of the committee as the UN can provide with financial assistance through the UN 5<sup>th</sup> committee. The solutions above are merely suggestions and ideas to get you started in your own research and exploration of the topic and I hope you find more innovative solutions as well. However, keep in mind that your solutions should be consistent with your country's policy and should only be used if your country would do it.

### **Questions to Consider:**

The questions below are provided to help guide you through your research on the topic to developing meaningful solutions. These do not have to be directly answered in committee but should be kept in mind to ensure the most effective solutions are presented.

1. To what extent does SALW proliferation affect your country? Is there a large illicit market and if so, how big is it?
2. What action has your country taken to prevent the proliferation of SALW? Are there any specific laws or legislation implemented by your government? Could these laws be applied on an international scale?
3. Do SALW support organized crime or terrorist organizations within your country? Does the amount of SALW in circulation in your country correlate with crime rates?
4. How do social and economic factors tie into the proliferation of SALW?
5. Are there any specific NGOs that would be effective in dealing with the topic? What would they accomplish?
6. Do your solutions cover multiple time frames to ensure a lasting effect?

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