

JJMUNC II

DISEC

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## Use of Drones in the Military

### **Introduction**

The first topic in the Disarmament and International Security Committee will be the use of drones in the military. A drone is defined as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). UAVs are controlled autonomously by computers onboard or by remote control from a pilot on the ground, sometimes even thousands of miles away. Drones are mostly used for security purposes such as surveillance.

Though drones are primarily for reconnaissance and surveillance, within the last few decades, there has been an increased demand for, and use of, drones for military purposes. Armed UAVs have the ability to target specific areas or individuals without risk of harm to the pilot, offering a higher degree of danger and risk taking associated with their use. The major points of controversy stem from their lack of transparency and regulation, mainly in terms of reported operations and casualties. As the number of existing drones and casualties caused by drone strikes increase, it is of the utmost importance that DISEC forms firm regulations concerning the use of drones for military purposes.

## History

The first use of UAVs date back to the mid-1800s, when Austria attacked Venice using bomb filled balloons, thus introducing the world to the concept of aerial attacks sans pilots. Through both World Wars there were countless attempts to conceive remotely controlled airplanes, developed by many nations, from Nazi Germany's Heer to the United States Navy. The first legitimate modern drone is credited to the Ryan Aeronautical Company of San Diego in 1948. However, it wasn't until the U-2 incident in Soviet Russia, when the US' manned spy plane crashed leaving the pilot at the will of the Russians, when the United States Air Force decided to kick start the "Red Wagon" program: to intensify the planning of unmanned flights to avoid losing pilots over hostile territory.

In 1964, the U.S. had its first successful combat mission using secret UAVs. In 1973, the U.S. military officially confirmed their use of drones for the first time, as they were applied in the Vietnam War, where total of 3,435 UAV missions were flown. Later, in 1973 during the Yom Kippur war, Israel facilitated the destruction of around 25 concealed Syrian surface-to-air missile by identifying them with drones. This led Israel to become the leading developer of drones during the 1980s, developing a UAV which captured surveillance video and streamed the information in real time to its pilot. The U.S adopted many of Israel's Pioneer UAVs, as they were

relatively inexpensive, and could be controlled with relative ease from the ground using a joystick.

During the 1990s, drones became increasingly popular for use in both science and public service, doing things such as examining environmental conditions and helping in search and rescue. Notably, drones saw heavy use in wildfire surveillance, by farmers for crop monitoring, and even for tracking animal migration. Although the peacetime services performed by drones were in high supply at this time, UAVs for military use were still being continuously developed over the same period.

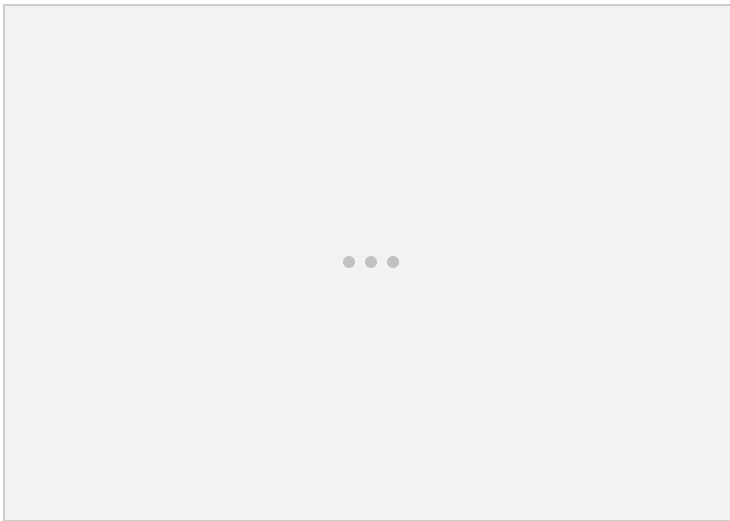
In 2008, it was reported that the United States Air force had 5,331 employed UAVs, and as of 2013, there are at least 50 countries currently using UAVs.

### **Technical Information on Drones**

There are currently a very large number of different types of drones both in use and being developed. Among these, The General Atomics MQ-1 Predators are presently considered state-of-the-art, and are the primary military drones used by the United States. Predators can be equipped with hellfire missiles, and are now even capable of targeting and firing on targets autonomously, due to the recent incorporation of artificial intelligence into the weapons system. From June 2005 to June 2006 alone, predators carried out 2,073 missions worldwide.

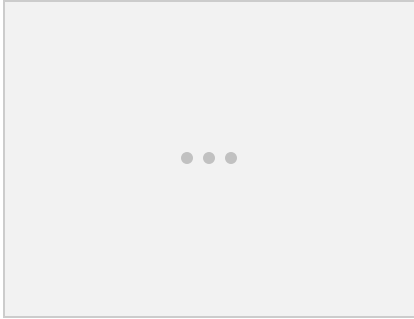
Another UAV of note is the Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk. The Global Hawk is a military drone solely used for surveillance and security work, incapable of being armed. It can take off and navigate a course without human control, constantly sending GPS and video feeds back to its pilot in order to gather valuable surveillance information

There are six main categories of drones that a delegate should be aware

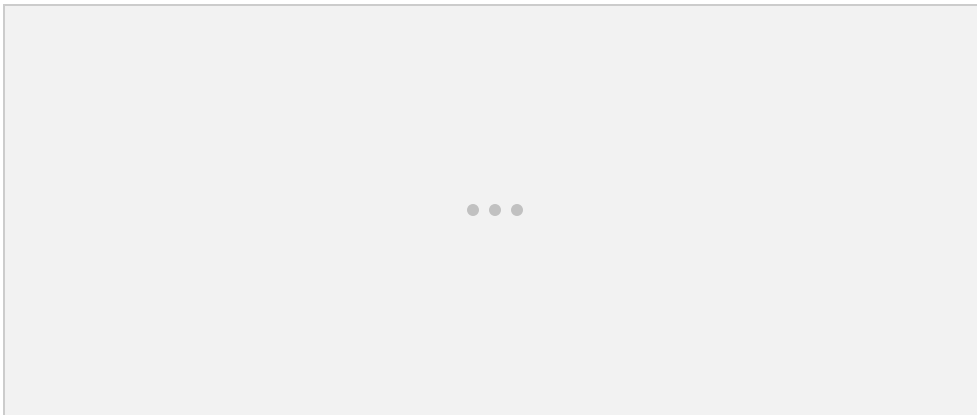
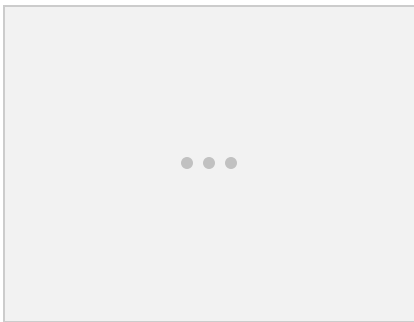


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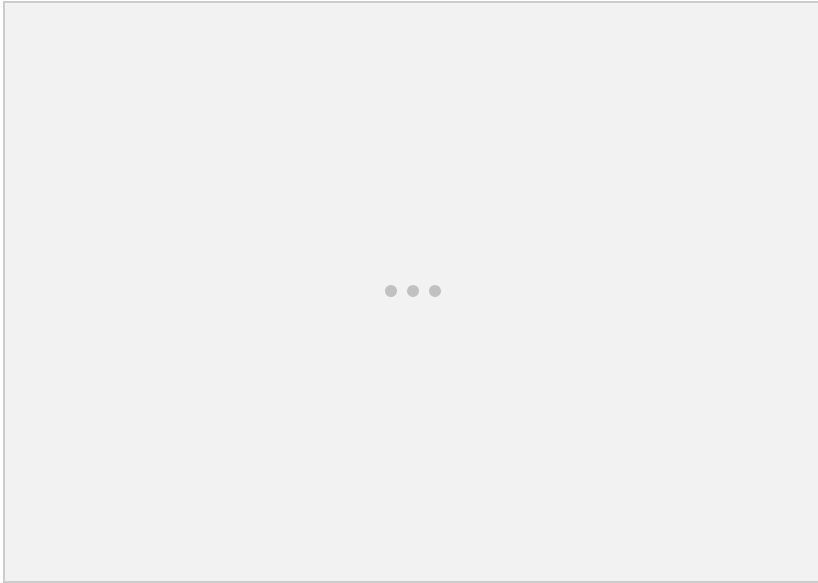
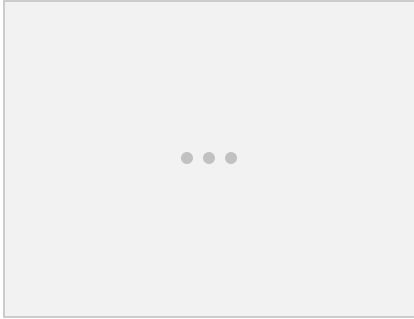
Target and Decoy- Acts as a target and/or decoy to be used when training gunnery officers to simulate what it would be like to shoot at a real aerial vehicle.



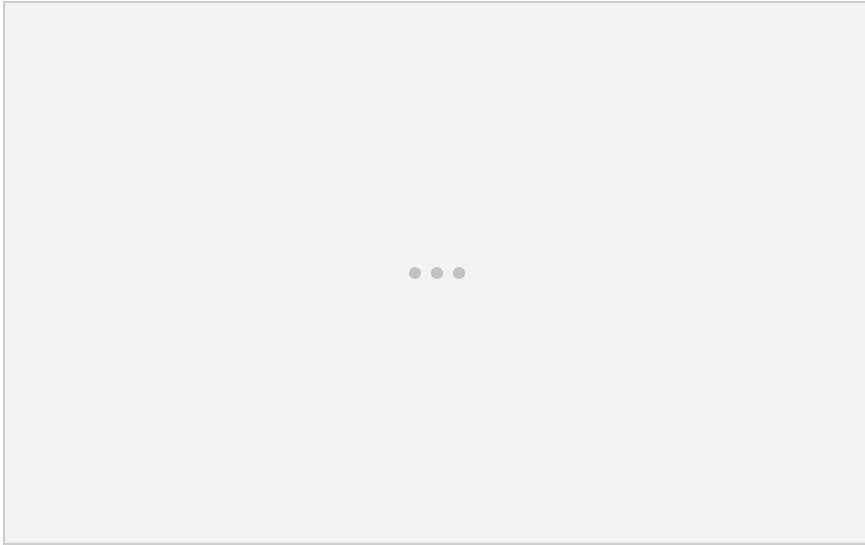
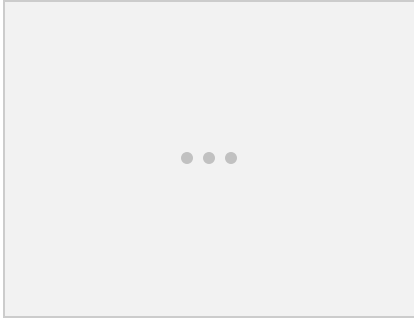
Reconnaissance- Provides battlefield intelligence through still images and video taken of enemy bases and movements.



Combat-Provides an attack capability for high-risk missions where an actual pilot's life might be endangered (Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle)



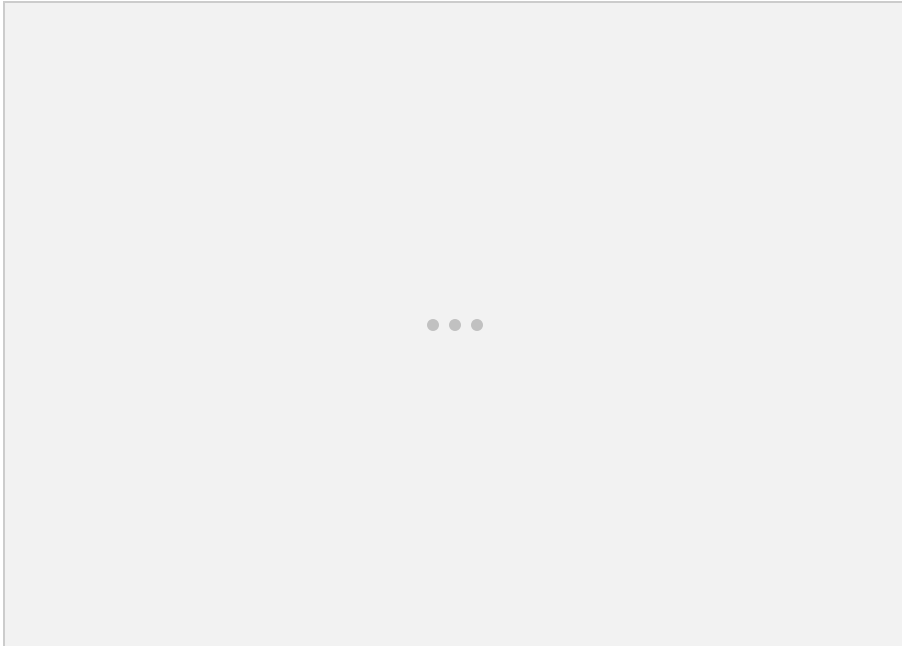
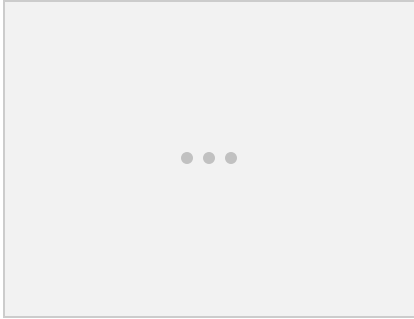
Logistics- Used for missions that involve the transport and tracking of cargo and resources



Research and Development- Used to aid in the further development of UAV technologies to be applied in the field at some time in the future.

Civil and Commercial- UAVs specifically designed for civil and commercial applications (non-military).





## **Past Conflicts**

Though there are some questions over the, primarily, CIA's use of drones to remotely observe faraway entities without consent, what has become a far more prominent and controversial issue are the inaccuracies associated with drone strikes and the numerous civilian casualties that have resulted from them. Drone strikes by the US are most commonly used as a means of trying to eliminate militant threats in the middle east, where Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups hold a large presence. These strikes can often be

more desirable than sending in ground forces as there is no risk of American death or injury; the only thing endangered is the unmanned drone. However, even though the drone pilot is able to see through a live video feed their potential targets, it's sometimes still hard to distinguish who is a combatant and who is not. For example, on May 23, 2013, the US acknowledged for the first time that drone strikes overseas have actually killed four Americans since 2009. Though four Americans were tragically killed over this period, it's unknown, in addition, exactly how many other innocent citizens from Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and all other countries that have been targeted in drone strikes, have also been killed.

Drone strikes in Pakistan alone since Obama's start of the program in 2009 have reportedly resulted in the deaths of between 416 and 951 civilians, as well as 168 to 200 children, according to the Bureau of Investigative Government. Unofficial reports such as these likely hold some truth, but official, definitive reports have been very vague up to this point. There are concerns that the US government has been underreporting civilian casualties, as it was revealed in 2011 that Obama's counter-terrorism adviser John Brennan's statement "there hasn't been a single collateral death," in reference to Pakistan since August 2010, was false, since examinations by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism found evidence of various strikes from 2010 to 2011 where at least 45 civilians appeared to have died. Conversely, Al Qaeda has also been known to overreport casualty statistics, as a means to garner support for their aggression towards Americans.

Currently, American policies in regards to the restrictions of using drone strikes are somewhat ambiguous. Both the CIA and the pentagon have been granted the ability to use drones to attack terrorist targets in countries where the government may or may not object to their presence. It is very much a grey area when determining who does or does not present a threat to the United States' interests, and whether or not such threats need to be attacked immediately. There is controversy over the concept that America may not just be initiating imminent threats to the United States, but also targeting threats to foreign allies, such as when in mid June, 2014 a strike was carried out on Uzbek militants, who only pose a serious threat to the Pakistani government. The boundaries of and extent to which the US government can carry out drone strikes would need to be made fully transparent in order to clear up all existing controversy surrounding their usage.

### **Controversy and Legality**

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## **Bloc Positions**

### African Countries

Drones haven't been highly used in Africa and don't directly affect most African countries. However, UAVs are currently in use for patrol and surveillance in Libya, Niger, and Mali. These countries are using drones in cooperation with French forces.

There is now a growing drive from African nations dependent on overseas trade to purchase drones to use for surveillance and patrol and potential strikes on African terrorist organizations. The African governments see potential repetition of how drones are in use in the Middle East to target

terrorist groups and therefore it is important for African nations to note how drone use in the future should be controlled.

### The Middle East

There have been ongoing drone strikes on Middle Eastern countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Yemen. The Middle Eastern people have formed protests and there has been much backlash on America (the main perpetrator of these attacks) in regards to their unconventional tactics that are approved by the U.S. government authorities. It is important for these nations to address how the use of drone strikes on civilians can be dealt with by negotiation or other means.

### North America

The U.S. is the largest owner and operator of drones, with a growing fleet of over 6,000 drones. The Mexican and U.S. governments are currently in cooperation to use drones to fight the War on Drugs and patrol the United States' southern border. It is important for these countries to assess how the development and use of their drones will be used in the future and how the legality will be addressed.

### South America

The presence of drones in South America is very slight, with few countries having the capability to own and operate multi-million dollar UAVs. However, recently, with the US' leaving of Iraq, there are a fairly large number of no unused drones, mainly Predators, in the military's stockpiles. As such, the US wants to distribute some of these throughout South

America for use in the monitoring of drug trafficking, and other non-combative applications to assist in public safety and welfare.

### Asia

Asia is another area, although largely developed, that is still just easing into the widespread use of drones. Countries such as China and Japan have large military stockpiles and have, in the past, employed the use of drones for surveillance and cargo purposes, but rarely to never for targeted strikes. With this in mind, international drone manufactures see Asia as a very valuable emerging market and are presently attempting to sell de-weaponized versions of some successful drones to the area, including the MQ-1 Predator.

Questions to Consider:

- In what way does your nation use drones or in what way is your nation affected by drones?
- Should the United States' use of targeted drone strikes be regulated and approved by the UN?
- How can the number of unintended civilian casualties resulting from drone strikes be lessened while nations are still allowed to perform targeted strikes?
- Who should be held responsible when unintended casualties do result from a drone strike? -What constitutes legal versus illegal grounds for deploying a targeted drone strike on an international level?

## DISEC- Small Arms Trade

### Illicit Small Arms Trade

#### Introduction:

The illegal trade and trafficking of small arm is a growing issue throughout the world. Small arms trade by definition of the United Nations includes both small arms and light arms. Small arms are defined as portable weapons including but not limited to; revolvers, self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, assault rifles, submachine guns and light machine guns. Light arms are defined as portable weapons including but not limited to; heavy machine guns; hand-held grenade launchers; portable anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns; recoilless rifles; portable launchers of anti-aircraft and anti-tank missile systems; and mortars of calibres of less than 100 mm. Each and every year small arms claim 500,000 lives, 300,000 of which are conflict related and 200,000 a result of homicide and suicide. 400,000 (80%) of the lives lost annually at the hands of small arms are civilian. The illicit arms trade is a topic of concern for every nation, it is an issue that is prevalent from third world conflict zones to the White House and the necessity to hinder the international small arms trade quickly and effectively has never been greater.

Furthermore, black market small arms trafficking generally takes place on local or regional levels, not on an international scale. The “ant trade” is an example of this localized trafficking that is both extremely hard to combat and very destabilizing. Data analyzed in the Small Arms Survey of



2013 showed thousands of the illegal firearms seized in Mexico can be traced back to small time, perfectly legal dealers in the United States; brokers but the weapons from authorized American dealers and then smuggle them over the border. While each shipment is small, an accumulation of them leads to a large number of small arms in the hands of the wrong individuals. The fact that a large part of the illicit arms trade is highly localized makes it extremely difficult to design programs to fight the issue.

## **History**

United Nations Initiatives and Actions: In July of 2001 United Nations member nations initiated the Program of Action (POA) to combat the illicit trade of small arms. This program was designed with the purpose of tracking and monitoring the growth of the illegal arms trade and keeping checks on it to assist nations in fighting the problem. The Program of Action is specific to SALW (small arms and light weapons), and while it still has the support of member nations progress has not been noteworthy. Four years ago, in June of 2011, member nations meet to discuss the effectiveness of the Program of Action and examine new possibilities. At the Biennial Meeting of States in New York the committee came to the consensus that the main reason the Plan of Action had been relatively ineffective is because of an incapability and unwillingness of the international community to set international standards for marking and tracking small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, a lack of consistent

cross border regulatory policies pertaining to illegal arms dealers and brokers makes it easier to transport SALW across borders.

More recently, on April 2nd of 2013, the United Nations officially adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The treaty itself is designed to thwart the flow of small arms to conflict regions through consistent and hard regulation of the international arms trade. The United Nations and member states believe that through the Arms Trade Treaty many gangs, human rights violators, warlords and insurgents from gaining access to the arms they use to commit their crimes.

### **Information of Small Arms**

Small Arms:

Vaguely meaning weapons designed for individual use. They are usually at the lower end of the calibre spectrum (4.6–40 or 66 mm).

Hand Gun- a small arm that can be fired with one hand; a revolver or a pistol

Assault Rifle- any weapon, either automatic or semiautomatic, with a large capacity magazine and the ability to fire off rounds at a fast pace that was designed specifically for military use

Light Arms: weapons for use by two or three people, although some can be carried and used by a single person.

Anti Tank Guns- any weapon or firearm that was designed with the specific purpose of destroying or immobilizing armored vehicles.

Hand-Held Grenade Launcher- often referred to as an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) is an anti-tank weapon that is generally held on ones shoulder and is equipped with explosive warheads that are affixed to a rocket motor.

Past Conflicts: Armed drones are undermined weapon that isn't always, but should, be treated like one. Globally, any government or group containing armed drones must understand the risks to civilians from deploying them. Nobody knows the true extent of civilian harm caused by US drone strikes in places like Pakistan and Yemen. More information is revealed about the capabilities drones have after militant conflicts occur involving them.

Research is being done work to change it, including partnering with advocacy coalitions and serving on the Council on Foreign Relations advisory board on US drone policy and domestically. There's no particular nation target involving drones but there are nations who have been victimized from the casualties that have occurred because of drones.

As of most recently, in 2013, the conflict between irresponsible drone use and the effects on children worldwide arose in media biz. At Washington D.C., Nine-year-old Nabeela ur Rehman, from North Waziristan in the remote tribal region of Pakistan voiced to congress and echoing to the world, the terrors of drone's danger and "America's secret

assassinations overseas". Nabeela told the story of how her grandmother, was killed by a US drone strike while tending her garden. US responded with a possible act to fund for Nabeela's family financial compensation due to their militant actions. Reportedly, special new 'NGO's are being put in place to handle US drone compensation funds. Direct payments are being made out to victims might upset certain Pakistani officials, as such restitution would bypass the main financial beneficiary of US counterterrorism policy in Pakistan. Factions among the Pakistani security services received billions, and more coming, US dollars over the last decade in order to aid of Washington in the War on Terror.

Since early 2004, more have been killed in Pakistan due to armed conflicts than who have died in Afghanistan. Reportedly there's been around 35,000 casualties and 40,000 injuries within the timeframe 2004-2010. For example, in 2011, January to August, approximately 400 have been killed in drone strikes, and another 500 killed in 2011 by militant suicide attacks. Militant organizations on the western hemisphere have cost thousands of casualties in Pakistan using suicide attacks, assassinations, and ambush tactics. Since Pakistan is a target to armed militant drones, Pakistani Security Forces killed civilians with mortars, targeted fire, and bombs are militants used fight and to support for their government

Problems Needing To Be Addressed:

1. Data: One of the largest obstacles the United Nations faces in it's attempts to combat the illicit small arms trades is the lack of data and statistics available on international small arms. Despite efforts by the UN to

foster and promote the sharing of small arms information between member nations, the effectiveness of these policies has been limited; as of June 16th, 2014, less than half of the 55 nations under review by the UN have provided any information regarding their licensing of small arms. This lack of hard data makes efforts by governments and other organizations to thwart the illicit sale and use of small arms nearly impossible. If the United Nations and the member nations attempting to take action have no intelligence as to where the illicit small arms are coming from, who is purchasing them and what their intended uses are any action taken will be ill fated and unsuccessful. Perhaps the most important step in fighting the illegal arms trade is to create a sound international database with solid data and statistics from all possible nations, then and only then is efficient and effective policy achievable.

2. Stockpile Management: The management and control of small arms stockpiles is one of the keys to combating the illicit arms trade. When governments stockpile weapons, particularly small arms, these weapons have a tendency to “leak,” this “leakage” of stockpiled weapons is a prominent source of small arms in circulation. It is imperative that governments implement programs to destroy instead of stockpile small arms, especially in post conflict settings. The destruction of post armed-conflict arms and surplus weapons decreases the number of illegally attainable small weapons and ammunition and removes fuel for the possibility of future instability, violence and conflict. If a governing body such as the United Nations were to create initiatives or requirements for

governments and organizations to refrain from stockpiling unused firearms and ammunition in an effective manner, such a policy would greatly reduce the number of small arms in circulation for years to come. Furthermore, following basic economic principles, if these major stockpiles were to be destroyed there would be less small arms in circulation, therefore naturally driving up the price to illegally purchase small arms. While a rise in price may have violent implications, higher prices would make the purchase and therefore the use of small arms in poverty stricken zones less frequent. In a world where Ugandans could at one point purchase an AK-47 assault rifle for less than the price of a chicken, it is vitally important that we as member nations make small arms more difficult to achieve.

3. Marking and Tracking: The marking and tracking of small arms, or lack thereof, is a major problem international law enforcement agencies face in their attempts to find the individuals or groups responsible for the illicit trade of small arms. If it were required that all small arms produced were marked and traceable it would then make it possible for law enforcement to track obtained illicit weapons back to original owners. Furthermore, a policy of marking and tracking should not only be applied to firearms to be produced in the future but also firearms currently being held in stockpiles. While many weapons are indeed marked upon their production, it is not required in many nations and international cooperation on the issue is near non-existent. If member states could form a way to work together to mark all possible small arms in a traceable manner, international efforts to apprehend illegal arms dealers would be significantly more effective

therefore assisting greatly in the battle against the illicit small arms trade.

4. International Small Arms Suppliers: While the majority of deaths caused by small arms occur in third world nations and poverty stricken conflict zones, the majority of the weapons themselves come from major western powers. This issue is complex due to that fact that while it is clear that many of the weapons used in violent South American nations such as Columbia come from gun manufactures in the United States (it is estimated that 2,000 firearms cross from the U.S. into Mexico each day), western governments often do not want to stifle the manufacturing of these weapons. Governments such as those of the U.S., Germany and China have both economic reasons to support small arms manufacturing as well as political ones, a classic example being the powerful National Rifle Association (NRA) in the United States. If major manufactures can work on disarmament and/or the assurance that guns produced in their nations are not used in foreign violent conflict, a major cause of the illicit small arms trade would be ratified.

Questions to Consider:

1) How can the international community come to agreement on a system to regulate and combat the illegal small arms trade around the globe, knowing that international cooperation is key to combating the issue at hand?

2) Should governments that produce large quantities of small arms and ammunitions be forced and/or heavily pressured to scale back production

or at the very least dispose of currently held stockpiles and prevent future stockpiles from forming?

3)

A - What are the consequences, politically, economically and socially speaking, of a rampant illicit arms trade?

B - How can these consequences be mitigated until the illegal trade is effectively reduced?

4) How can a database for intelligence and data and small arms be formed and kept in an efficient and productive manner to give the international community and law enforcement organizations better information to fight the illegal dealers and traders?

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