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2018

Position Papers for:

The General Assembly 1st Committee
Disarmament & International Security
The issues presented before the first committee are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Belarus opposes the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and supports the nation’s independence. Belarus is not a signatory of the Arms Trade Treaty.

**Russian Occupation of Ukraine**
Since 2014, Russia has had a hostile military presence in Ukraine. Armed conflicts have risen and fell within Ukraine, and Russian president Vladimir Putin has attempted to gain support from several countries, including Belarus, though he has failed to gain support from Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko or from any of these other countries.

**Preventing Illicit Arms Trade**
In 2014, the Arms Trade Treaty entered into force in order to regulate the international trade of weapons. It has over 100 signatories as well as 92 ratifications, although Belarus is not among them. It’s goal is to keep track of and regulate the buying and selling of weapons in order to help maintain regional and international peace.

Though having faced pressures from the leader of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, Belarus is strictly opposed to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Belarusian capital of Minsk is beginning to be accepted as a peacekeeper in Ukraine, and Belarus is making constant efforts to distance itself from Russian influence.

Belarus is a signatory of a draft that focuses of the prevention, combat, and ultimately eradicate the trade of illicit weaponry on a regional, national, and international scale. The draft also calls upon member states that have not taken measures toward the collective goal of the draft to do so to help establish and maintain international peace.

Belarus believes that the first step to ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine is international intervention from the UN, especially former Soviet states such as itself. Belarus believes that greater intervention by the UN is the only way to stop abuses from a global superpower with as much influence as Russia. We believe that Russia’s abuses of it’s neighbor states is not only immoral, but should be considered serious crimes, or even grounds for war.

Belarus believes it is the UN’s responsibility to ensure peace in the international community, and it is therefore the responsibility of the UN to regulate the buying and selling of conventional weapons and small arms to ensure that conflicts, should they break out, are kept contained and collateral damage is minimized. We believe that in order to accomplish this, that the UN should continue its efforts to abolish illicit weapons trade and continue in its efforts to promote nuclear disarmament.
Committee: United Nations General Assembly  
Delegation: Belgium

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The issues before the United Nations General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Belgium hopes to create good relations with other delegations in order to form strong resolutions to these pressing issues.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

Every nation deserves the right to maintain its territorial integrity and sovereignty. This sentiment applies to every country, including Ukraine, which has suffered under the suffocating hand of Russia. The goal should always be to increase communication and efforts to solve issues without force. Russia, however, refuses to partake in that conversation. Russia maintains its own agenda, and has continuously ignored efforts to limit aggravations of the situation at hand. Belgium strongly opposes the actions of Russia in its forced occupation of Ukraine. The infiltration of Russian troops into Ukraine is not just nor necessary, and must be addressed before more harm is done. Belgium recognizes the danger of Russia’s threats on the European Union. Being a force that holds the structure of Europe together, we cannot allow for Russia’s actions to weaken the EU. Therefor, Belgium vehemently supports countering the aggressions of Russian forces.

Belgium promotes Ukrainian independence and will assist in efforts to limit Russian aggression. This delegation firmly opposes Russian invasion of Ukrainian territory and admonishes the introduction of troops and military action. As a member of the European Union, Belgium advocates for the strengthening of a united Europe. This cannot be accomplished with nations that do not support a country’s right to sovereignty. By refusing to listen to opposing viewpoints, Russia has continuously ignored efforts of other countries to solve the issue at hand. On several occasions Russia has unjustly and without conversation with other European nations pursued its own plan of action, one that many in the EU oppose. This delegation supports Ukraine and the creation of measures to counter Russian hostility and occupation.

This delegation supports fostering the conversation of what led to the occupation in the first place. Belgium has hosted several summits on the Eastern Partnership and works diligently to be a part of the conversation over Ukrainian agendas. Belgium encourages a solution that does not involve further conflict that separates Russia from the rest of the EU. As it holds trade ties with Russia, the delegation of Belgium supports the creation of an agreement that does not block the ability for economic and international partnership. That being said, Belgium is not dependent on Russia and will not hold back on any decision making because of this. The delegation of Belgium believes that in order to solve issues relating to the Ukrainian occupation, greater support of Ukraine must be garnered. Forceful and illegal invasion into a sovereign country without consultation with other European countries cannot be accepted. Russia cannot be allowed to weaken the bonds of the European Union. Nations must band together as a unit that both opposes unjust occupation and works towards the goal of open communication and understanding among countries.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Everyday, more and more nations and the residents within them are being affected by deadly firearms. Belgium is no stranger to this. Belgium has a history of gun manufacturing, being one of the world’s top exporters of firearms, but also has dealt with a large amount of illegal firearm trade. Out of European countries, Belgium’s death rate from firearms is high. Also, the number of Belgian homes containing firearms is one of the highest in all of Europe. The Flemish Peace Institute, based in Brussels, has reported that European countries with more firearms have higher rates of firearm related deaths. In 2016 it was reported that illegal gun trade in the country was up by more than 50 percent. Belgium has unfortunately been affected by illicit trade, but its history of firearm production and control has given it the ability and knowledge on proper limitation and creation of programs that increase overall safety and reliability of the system.

Because of its comprehensive knowledge on both legal and illicit gun trade, Belgium has headlined and participated in several UN and EU initiatives such as the “International Tracing Instrument” and the “UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade of weapons” regarding the limitation and prevention of illicit trade. Belgium holds a role in being the main developer for control of weapons and is making efforts to combat illicit arms trade through proper registration and manufacturing that ensures traceability. This process holds gun owners accountable for their actions, and therefore more responsible. Belgium is among the top ten countries for transparent small arms trade. Belgium also supports initiatives in halting illicit trade from other countries through increasing border patrol as well as strengthening related administration and regulation. Being one of the main countries affected by illegal firearm trade, Belgium is immensely interested in combating the issue on both a national and international scale.

In order to combat illicit trade, nations must work as a unified force that restricts activity in their own nations, as well as the creation of systems that better address the development of traceability for firearms. The goal of all efforts to suppress illegal trade is to reorganize and develop productive methods to establish reliable tracking and border control. Specific solutions that Belgium has already begun to pioneer include tracing illegal trade of weapons to conflict zones, creating databases for an exchange of information of contraband arms trade, and the development of risk analysis based on a transfer of intelligence on illicit trade. Because of Belgium’s extensive history and experience in combating this issue, this delegation recommends that international solutions are developed from existing contributions from Belgium.
Delegation from: the Federative Republic of Brazil  
Represented by: Beachwood High School  
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security  

Position Paper For General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues before General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security (GA1 DISEC) include: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Federative Republic of Brazil recognizes the concern surrounding the Russian-Ukraine conflict, and also understands the need to enhance international cooperation against the illicit arms trade.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

The ongoing Ukraine-Russia crisis is described as an epochal conflict, raising many concerns of its global consequences. As a result of Russia’s takeover of Crimea following the Ukrainian revolution in 2014, dispute ensued between the Ukrainian forces and the Russian-backed separatist militias in East Ukraine. Although concentrated in one area, the armed conflict has sparked international outrage due to the extensive damage it has wrought upon civilian populations and the threat it poses to the still frail economic recovery in Europe. Advancing recklessly to its fifth consecutive year, the Ukraine-Russia crisis continues to be generally non-submissive to past arrangements for peace, including UN Resolutions 68/262 and 71/205, and the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement. Mortality statistics reveal the dispute has caused 10,090 casualties, 2,777 of which were civilians. In addition, 23,966 citizens have been injured since the beginning of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and a total of 1.6 million people have fled their homes. Human rights violations have been reported on both sides; these include torture and arbitrary detention, as well as censorship of speech and media. Along with severe social impacts, the armed conflict causes massive environmental disasters, most noticeably the clear deterioration in air quality. Overall, the global consequences of the Ukraine-Russia crisis include not only the disruption to the unity of Europe, but also the jeopardizing of international stability.

The Federative Republic of Brazil firmly supports the efforts of the United Nations in helping Ukraine and Russia find a negotiated solution. Because Brazil values the significant political, economic, and scientific relations it currently has with both Ukraine and Russia, it emphasizes its neutrality on the subject of the matter, appealing to both parties “to act with moderation.” As a former supporter of the Minsk II Agreement of 2015 and the call to ceasefire, Brazil considers both to be necessary in order to engage all parties in seeking a peaceful and permanent solution to the conflict. Brazil views the sanctions against Ukrainian and Russian individuals, companies and officials as counterproductive, because thus far, they have only complicated efforts for direct exchange between the two sides of the conflict and their allies. Brazil is deeply concerned about the proposals for further armed conflict in Ukraine, as this would deepen existing complications and create unfathomable political and humanitarian consequences. Finally, strongly believing that the progression to international stability should be moderate and based on pacifist compromise, Brazil would undoubtedly prefer not to witness the situation in Crimea develop into a third global war, and is particularly distressed that the deterioration of the current situation could trigger a catastrophic domino effect.

Through this committee, the Federative Republic of Brazil anticipates working with other delegations to devise a multilateral plan in order to finally establish peace in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. First, the Federative Republic of Brazil implores the committee to develop a sequence of actions for the demilitarization of the Ukraine-Russia conflict through temporary ceasefires, basic limitations on military troops, and rediscussion over the Ukrainian-Russian border. Moreover, Brazil pleads that the committee bear in mind the necessity of a peaceful resolution in order to avoid further conflict and possible international militarial involvement. Because Brazil recognizes the extreme costs of humanitarian damage in Ukraine, Brazil is in favor of providing safe access, delivery, storage and distribution of aid to the conflict zone. Through the creation of refugee aid programs, the rebuilding of communities, and compensation for the demolition of significant infrastructure, the Federative Republic of Brazil aims for a final resolve of the situation. Brazil hopes that by the dismissal of this committee, there will be a definite course of action that is capable of combating the problems currently unsolved in the Ukraine-Russia conflict through stricter surveillance of both sides and more efficient long-term reconstruction for humanitarian damage, bearing in mind Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Overall, the Federative Republic of Brazil looks forward to compromising with other nations in order to reach a productive resolution to this severe conflict.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The dissemination of illicit arms is an international problem which inevitably fuels the plausibility of escalated crime, mass revolts, terrorism, and human suffering among civilian populations. The increasing availability of small arms has become a major component to the increase in the number of conflicts and to the decrease of successful reconstruction after those conflicts. For instance, the sale of light weapons has accounted for approximately 300,000 to 500,000 deaths around the world, and continue to be the principal cause of civilian casualties in present conflicts. In contrast to biological and nuclear weapons, categorized as weapons of mass destruction, the illicit arms trade is more difficult to monitor and to regulate due to the legality of firearm ownership for military arrangements, law enforcement agencies, and, most dangerously, recreational uses. Hence, it is difficult to impose bans and avoid sales of these weapons, often allowing trading of these weapons to go unchecked. Furthermore, once illicit arms are obtained by terrorists, they are capable of being diverted across multiple borders in various inconceivable ways. Although this occurs mostly in concentrated areas in Africa and the Middle East that are affected by conflict, violence and organized crime, where the need for such weapons are essential, both local and global communities are at the mercy of this spiraling issue. Although most arms exchanges are done by private parties, certain governments can also contribute when in favor of supporting the actions of rival and terrorist groups.

The Federative Republic of Brazil assures its full support and cooperation towards the goal of attacking the illicit trade in arms. Brazil recognizes the profound human, social, and economic complications caused by the widespread circulation of illicit arms and weapons, and has launched a series of initiatives to combat illicit flows of weapons and ammunition. In 2006, the Federative Republic of Brazil voiced its approval of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In 2013, the Federative Republic of Brazil signed the Arms Trade Treaty, a multifaceted arrangement that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons. Within the state of Brazil, all firearms are required to be registered, the minimum age for gun ownership being 25. In Brazil, the adoption in 2003 of a new law on firearms containing stricter penalties for violation, along with a nationwide program responsible for the collection of 450,000 weapons, has led to a 8.2% decrease in the amount of casualties caused by firearms. Since 2005, gun ownership in Brazil has been strictly monitored, and confiscations at the discretion of authorities has been strictly placed into operation. Ultimately, the Federative Republic of Brazil strongly believes that international cooperation and assistance against the illicit brokering of arms would unquestionably be beneficial to international order.

The Federative Republic of Brazil's past experience in attempting to implement initiatives against the illicit arms trade at the national, regional and global levels has evidently revealed some of its shortcomings. Brazil hopes that the General Assembly will achieve a resolution to this apparent threat to global unity by implementing further effective actions on the trafficking of ammunition, regulation of possession by civilians, and transfer controls. By developing a better system to detect, investigate and prosecute the trade of illegal weaponry, Brazil hopes to deal with the current widespread problem through various global policies and programs. In addition, there is a clear need for the reinforcement of regional and global initiatives related to capacity building and training. Brazil also believes that there should be more mutual contact between national authorities of different countries, as well as further active exchange of information and joint actions in resolving this issue. These new efforts could also be integrated into other global programs involving local, national and international personnel to help achieve a definite resolution. Overall, the ultimate aim of the committee should be working toward an exceptional reduction in the illicit trade of arms, combating organized crime and finally resulting in global peace.
Delegation from: the Constitutional Monarchy of Canada  
Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School  

Position Paper for the General Assembly  
The issues before the General Assembly Council are: Ukraine and the illicit arms trade. The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada is devoted to the protection and rights of the Ukrainian citizens, and keeping the world’s worst terrorists out of the possession of illicit arms. Canada expresses its hope for the advancement in cooperation between state and non-state actors in the advocacy for the protection of Ukrainian citizens and protections against illicit arms trade.  

I. Support and Protection of the Ukrainian Citizens Against the Yanukovych Regime.  
The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada highly supports the work of all countries against the Yanukovych regime and the assistance provided to the rebellion. As a leader in the rebellion against the Yanukovych Regime, Canada has deployed 200 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel to Ukraine to deliver training to Ukrainian forces; as well as implementing capacity-building programs. Canada supports the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group through the provision of language, officer, and peacekeeping training for Ukrainian military and civilian personnel. Through the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Canada and Ukraine cooperate in projects in the areas of nuclear security, nuclear safety, including the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, and border security.  
The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada is a leading partner of Ukrainian gender equality, democracy, and inclusive, accountable governance, macroeconomic and financial sector development, civil society development, prevention of human trafficking, legal law enforcement, judicial reform, cooperative development, decentralization and local economic development, small and medium-sized enterprises development, media freedom, and the promotion and protection of human rights.  
Canada would like to bring attention to the efforts being made in the Minsk Accords. This agreement includes provisions for a cease-fire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry, and full Ukrainian government control throughout the conflict zone. The Minsk Accords are supported by France, Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Canada. The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada calls upon the international community to consider the principles and policies contained in the Minsk Accords, to adopt these principles as a global standard for the support of the Ukrainian government, and to try to find a peaceful, consistent, long-lasting agreement for peace in Ukraine.
II. Illicit Arms Trade Worldwide.

The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada supports the efforts to stop illicit arms trade, to keep illicit arms from fueling civil wars and terrorists. The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada would like to bring attention to the hundreds of thousands of small arms in government arsenals that are vulnerable to theft, loss, and diversion. These weapons are often smuggled across national borders in every conceivable way. Canada has spent billions of dollars supporting efforts to stop these smugglers and keep arms secured in governmental arsenals.

Canada welcomes the decisions taken at the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty held in Geneva in September. We also welcome the establishment of the standing working groups on implementation, transparency, reporting, and universalization proposed by the Third Conference of States Parties as important steps in advancing the Arms Trade Treaty. The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada affirms the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Treaty. This treaty provides a framework for supporting further work under the Treaty, and stresses the vital importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with all its provisions by participating states. Canada urges these states to meet their obligations under the Treaty.

The Constitutional Monarchy of Canada, demonstrating Canada’s relevance to the work of the United Nations under the humanitarian, peace and security and development pillars, would like to bring attention to the International Small Arms Control Standards that remains in wide use across the United Nations during the reporting period of 2017. The International Small Arms Control Standards were in use in 111 countries, and the assessment tool, developed with the assistance of Canada for the UN, has been used in more than eighty states. Canada believes the battle against illicit arms trade needs to be strengthened, and there is a need to reaffirm the determination of all United Nations members to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. Canada would also like to endorse strengthening the Secretary-General and frequency of reporting by Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register; while further developing the recommendations contained in the consensus report of the group of governmental experts. Canada would like to call upon Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to the battle against illicit arms trade. Canada also invites Member States, in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement of their national production and military holdings as part of the background information, and to make use of the de facto reporting form, or any other method deemed appropriate, for the respective elements in the battle against illicit arms trade.
The Democratic Republic of Chile
St. Edward High School
General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues before the General Assembly are: addressing the occupation of Ukraine and preventing illicit arms trade. The Democratic Republic of Chile looks forward to debating these controversial and dangerous topics, and is looking forward to working with the esteemed delegates to reach solutions.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

In 2014 with the Russian Federation’s Annexation of Crimea from the country of Ukraine and the following years of conflict. The Republic of Chile highly supports any and all positive outcomes in ending this solution. As a country which is not directly involved and isn’t in increasing social and political focus of the Ukraine, The Republic of Chile is an outside bystander. Acknowledging the fact that this annexation of Crimea has caused the deaths of approximately 10,090 people along with the injury of 23,00 citizens, Chile wishes to support any and all positive discussion and agreements in bringing this situation to an end. The Republic of Chile understands he difficulty of this task citing the Security council’s attempt heavy sanctions which had little effect, along with UN resolution 68/262. The UN resolution, 68/262, specifically listed out regulations in regards to this situation, but Russia simply ignored them.

Chile’s trades with Ukraine rose to 24 million dollars in 2016, which shows that The Republic of Chile’s support of Ukraine has only been economic, with political and social focus being directed toward Venezuela. In regards to past treaties, Chile, along with Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic were in support of the defense of the territorial integrity principle and further denounced the illegality of the March referendum in Crimea. The representative of Chile in the UN Security Council, Octavio Errazuriz, voted in favor of resolution, sponsored by the United States. The resolution condemned the March 16 referendum. Octavio warned against the holding of a referendum, For the reason that he believed it would raise tensions. Octavio continued by saying, "as it was an appropriate response to the crisis in Ukraine. The Budapest Memorandum required the parties to observe Ukraine's independence and current borders, and to refrain from military measures. The planned referendum was not in line with Ukraine's Constitution, he said, emphasizing the fundamental importance of ensuring that the rule of law was observed, nationally and internationally. Indeed, it was for Ukrainians to choose their future through a democratic process that respected minority rights. The crisis must be resolved peacefully through dialogue, and Chile regretted the Council's inability to support the resolution due to the use of the veto.” He stressed the importance in the need to respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence, he said that a breach of the United Nations Charter, as well as treaties to which Ukraine was a signatory should be avoided.

As it has been proven on countless attempts, sanctions cannot be imposed let alone full blown resolutions attempting to set up regulations, these will just be vetoed and shut down, which is why the Republic of Chile proposes a different way. The Republic of Chile suggests that the committee of GA DISEC 1 attempt to solve the crisis through democratic and peaceful dialogue, while respecting both minority’s rights on choosing their future along with the respect of the Ukraine’s territorial
integrity, sovereignty and political independence. The Republic of Chile believes that a breach of the UN charter as well as treaties to which Ukraine was a signatory should be avoided.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The Republic of Chile stresses the importance of stopping this lucrative business. While the Republic of Chile does not deal with this problem, many of Chile’s allies deal with this problem. Chile acknowledges the fact that the business of selling arms has been active since the beginning of armed weapons and that this selling and private manufacturing of illicit arms has led to human suffering, crime, terror among civilians and even political repression. While The Republic of Chile has signed and ratified many resolutions, The Republic of Chile wants to point out that the problem with the attempt at tracking arms, is that most agreements track trades by state powers and not by non-state powers, which causes the problem of trying to track these. This brings on Chile’s question, what should our next step be to take towards ending the illicit arms trade?

Chile has experienced “terrorist” attacks but only superficial bombings by native Chileans. Chile’s government is not involved in weapon sales. Weapon sales have been sold through the private sector. There have been private sales of weapons to Arab states but not on a grand scale. In April of 1998, Chile met with Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay and signed a joint declaration with all agreeing to create a joint register mechanism of buyers and sellers of any and all firearms, explosives, ammunition, and any and all related materials. Chile has signed, ratified and implemented countless treaties regarding this topic, including the OAS (Organisation of American States), The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, The ATT (Arms Trade Treaty), The United Nation firearms Protocol, and The UNPoA (UN Programme of Action). On the 14th of November in 1997, as a member of the Organisation of American States (OAS), Chile adopted the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Explosives, Ammunition and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, a diplomatic initiative aimed at addressing the interrelations between armed violence and development, was signed in 2006 by Chile. The Arms Trade Treaty was signed on the 3rd of June in 2013 and was ratified by Chile on the 18th of May in 2018. On the 21st of July in 2001, Chile committed to a consensus decision of the United Nations to adopt, support and implement the UNPoA. Under the terms of its 2001 commitment to the UNPoA, Chile has submitted one or more national reports on its implementation of the UNPoA. Further, a National Point of Contact has been designated to deal with issues relating to the UNPoA and a National Coordinating Body has been designated to deal with issues relating to the UNPoA.

As can be seen from history, the Republic of Chile is up to date and is constantly working to solve this crisis. While the UN has produced countless Resolution addressing this topic, they haven’t gotten to the core of the problem, which is sales by non-state powers. To counter this, The Republic of Chile suggests the implementation of the iARMS system in the tracking, locating, and seizure of these illicit arms.
The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Jefferson Area High School

General Assembly 1st Committee

The issues before the General Assembly 1st Committee are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is determined to help solve the issues at hand and desires a solution to be developed that all members in attendance can agree upon.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

In 1954, the peninsula of Crimea was transferred from the Soviet Union to Ukraine. However, in 2014, the Russian Federation entered eastern Ukraine and re-annexed Crimea. The citizens of Crimea were given the opportunity to vote whether they wanted to be part of Ukraine or part of the Russian Federation. However, there was a Russian military presence, which is believed to have caused intimidation to the citizens living in Crimea. Since then, the European Union and the United States have imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation, because they disagreed with Russia’s actions. There has also been many attacks from pro-Russian rebels since the annexation of Crimea. The rebels have been seizing land in the eastern parts of Ukraine, which is where Ukraine shares a border with the Russian Federation. Also, on July 17, 2014, Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by the rebels in Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board the flight. More recently, the Russian Federation built a bridge across the Kerch Strait to connect Crimea with Russia. Ukraine does not like the bridge connecting Russia and Crimea. The bridge is slowing down the ships that pass through the area, as ship inspections have increased since the bridge has been built. The bridge has also increased political pressure in Ukraine, along with hurting its economy.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has not taken a stance on the problem at hand in the Crimean Peninsula. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is going through an internal crisis, and needs help before it will be able to help with this problem. However, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to say that if there is support sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, then the nation would be will to send humanitarian support to those in need in the Crimean Peninsula. No matter what happens in this conflict, the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to see a peaceful resolution to this problem.

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo proposes three possible to the problem at hand in the Crimean Peninsula. The first solution would be to return the Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine. If this is the solution used, the bridge connecting the Russian Federation and the Crimea Peninsula would be closed. Ukraine would have to repay the Russian Federation for the cost of the bridge. Any volunteer nations could help Ukraine with the repaying $3.7 billion it would owe the Russian Federation. The second possible solution would be to give the Russian Federation full control of the Crimean Peninsula. If this solution was used, there would have to be a peace treaty signed between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Within this peace deal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to see military presence removed in the Crimean Peninsula and the surrounding areas. The final solution the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to propose is to have the Crimean Peninsula becoming its own, independent nation.
The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that if this is the solution chosen, the new nation should immediately be placed under a democratic government and added into the European Union. Until the new country is fully functioning, United Nations Peacekeepers would be stationed inside the country to keep peace. The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes any of these solutions could be successful and beneficial.

**II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade**

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that the international illicit arms trade has become a major problem in today’s society. As time progresses, more and more illicit firearms are spread throughout the world, causing problems for many nations across the globe. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there was an estimated 945,784 illicit firearms in 2017. This number is especially high, considering that there was only an estimated 34,000 illicit firearms in the nation in 2006. These illicit firearms allow terrorist groups, such as ISIS, and some rebel groups, such as March 23 Movement (M23), to cause harm to innocent civilians living within nations across the globe. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that if we do not come to a solution to prevent the trade of illicit arms, there will be many civilians across the globe at a high risk for harm or death from these illicit arms.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo does not support the illicit arms trade at a national level. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was a signatory of “The United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.” It was formally accepted on October 28, 2005. While the Democratic Republic of the Congo has not signed the Arms Trade Treaty, the country does agree with some of the ideas included in the treaty. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would be willing to be a signatory of a similar treaty, especially if it specifically helped the problems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Also, there is national laws in place within the country that make trading arms illegal. Punishments for these laws include 5-10 years in prison and a fine. However, the country is having major problems enforcing these laws, and would like assistance from external sources, preferably other nations.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a couple possible solutions that would work to prevent the illicit trading of arms. The first possible solution to this problem is to have very strict international security. This new security would search all aircraft, sea vessels, land vehicles, and bags moving between different countries. The security would confiscate any illicit items found, such as firearms, drugs, counterfeit money, bombs, and anything else that could be considered illicit. The confiscated items would then be sent to the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to be destroyed. The other possible solution the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo suggests is that all firearms in the world must be registered through the United Nations. With this solution, there would be a Non-Governmental Organization created through the United Nations to register the world’s firearms. The firearms that do not get registered would be tracked down by Interpol and police forces of each nation to be destroyed. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that if these two solutions were combined, it would lead to the best results.
Delegation from: Arab Republic of Egypt  
Represented by: Beachwood High School  
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

**Position Paper for the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security**

The issues for deliberation before the General Assembly’s First Committee on Disarmament and International Security includes Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Arab Republic of Egypt is not only open to collaboration with other nations, but committed to finding lasting solutions to the impending threats to global security that currently face this committee.

I: **Addressing The Occupation of Ukraine**

The conflict in Ukraine, now entering its fifth year, has had wide spread humanitarian, economic, and political effects in various international theaters. Following the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation in 2014, as well as the rebel insurgency of Russian backed Ukrainian separatist in the east of the country, a tidal wave of humanitarian related issues have plagued the conflict zone. Some 23,000 casualties and an additional 2,777 fatal ones are estimated among civilians affected by the conflict. Beyond direct fatalities, the effects are far reaching, having resulted in an estimated 1.6 million internally displaced people; these effects also relate to adverse social and economic issues. Moreover, economically, there is an estimated eight to nine billion dollars in direct damages, which will only increase if effective action is not taken. Since the beginning of the conflict, Ukraine’s GDP has seen a reduction of 17%, negatively affecting member states of the EU who hold developing economic ties, Russian interest which holds deep ties in investment and business in the Ukraine as well as the world at large, and Ukraine, which is one of the world’s largest exporters of grain products. This politically deeply rooted ideological proxy war leaves the citizens of Ukraine adversely affected from a worsening humanitarian situation and an ever growing economic crisis.

The Arab Republic of Egypt previously has been and continues to be an objective observer of this conflict between sovereign nations playing out in the spotlight of the international arena. This statement is further affirmed by the Arab Republic of Egypt’s abstention from both U.N. Resolution 68/262 and U.N. Resolution 71/205. Dispelling the belief that addressing the humanitarian and economic effects of the conflict is equivalent to choosing sides, the Arab Republic of Egypt would like to reaffirm its commitment to respect international laws pertaining to human rights and ensure that conflict relief efforts are unopposed by the parties involved in the conflict at hand. The Arab Republic of Egypt has trade and diplomatic relations with the EU and NATO countries involved in the conflict, as well as Ukraine and Russia, and firmly believes in the rationality and intent of all parties involved to move towards peace and end suffering for so many who are affected by the conflict at hand.

The Arab Republic of Egypt believes that peace in the region starts with holistic recognition of humanitarian and economic suffering in the conflict area and unified cooperation to address such. Recognizing that the conflict in Ukraine is a complicated struggle with various political reparations, the Arab Republic of Egypt encourages all parties involved to transcend political feuds for the advancement of coordinated humanitarian and economic efforts. The Arab Republic of Egypt looks forward to working with a diverse range of member states who can agree on this crucial concept so that fertile ground for peace and prosperity may be cultivated through multilateral action in the United Nations General Assembly.

II: **Preventing Illicit Arms Trade**
The trade of illicit arms, specifically small arms and light weaponry, is a complex issue that manifests itself beyond national borders. Every year, it is estimated around 8 million new small arms are added into worldwide circulation, with over 875 million already in circulation. With such a vast number of arms worldwide, tens of millions more are bound to be unaccounted for. The fire of organized crime and gun violence is fueled by vast international illicit arms trade networks. This issue is most urgent as terrorist organizations, which have long used the illicit arms trade to wreak havoc across the globe, continue to take a ever growing stake in this vast industry. In an industry that is estimated to be worth over 80 billion dollars in transactions of weaponry, many countries have affirmed that the vast industry should be more carefully regulated, while the sovereignty of nations who participate in the lawful trade of arms is respected. It is estimated that every day, over 1000 innocent civilians are killed through illegal weapons, showing the rampant humanitarian crisis throughout the world. Thus, the illicit arms trade must be recognized as a pressing issue. While no immediate fix is possible, this does not negate its detrimental effects on global security - preventive and responsive action must be continued and developed. With this in mind, the Arab Republic of Egypt firmly believes that the responsibility to curb the international illicit arms trade lies with individual member states.

The Arab Republic of Egypt has long regulated the possession and transfer of small arms within its own borders, starting with law No. 94 in 1954, which set guidelines for the licensing and trade of small arms legally. Since the “January 25th revolution,” which saw a governmental change within the Republic of Egypt, an increase in illegal small arms trafficking has been observed from neighboring countries of Libya and Sudan, contributing to further rebellion and discord. The Arab Republic of Egypt continues to aggressively enforce and combat such illegal arms trafficking. Recently, in 2017, the Arab Republic of Egypt participated in the U.N. Disarmament Committee. Egypt continues to reaffirm its commitment to international humanitarian law, which is threatened by the illicit arms trade. Respect and mutual security must be guaranteed for all humans, and this issue should be the concern of all nations. The Arab Republic of Egypt believes that while the ATT is a significant stride in addressing the problem at hand, it does not include enough action to actively combat the trade and use of illegal arms by terrorist and paramilitary organizations. Therefore, the Arab Republic of Egypt cannot support such a treaty.

The Arab Republic of Egypt implores the General Assembly of the United Nations work as one to address this threat to international security that has long run awry and has caused the needless loss of millions of innocent lives, threatened international humanitarian law, and supported the growth of organized crime and countless terrorist groups. It is the suggestion of the Arab Republic of Egypt that amendments to the ATT as well additional international agreements be made and actions be taken swiftly to increase international inspection of arms producers and promote mutual global accountability. The Arab Republic of Egypt would further like to add that it looks forward to the fruitful work that will be done in the spirit of international cooperation with the intent to further the strength of global security. If the international illicit arms trade is allowed to continue, the repercussions will only amount to be more calamitous.
Estonia
Jefferson High School
Disarmament and International Security

The issue before the Disarmament and International Security Committee are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illegal Arms Trade. Estonia is supporting Ukraine, believing the Russian Occupation to be unjust, and is in support of doing whatever necessary to stop illegal trading of arms.

In early 2014, Russian troops entered Crimea. They defended their actions, stating that they were protecting pro Russian groups in the area. The prime minister of Crimea, Sergey Aksyonov, stated that he was in control of the police and military. Crimea voted to secede from the union, getting praise from Russia. Ukraine prime minister believed Crimea to be an important part of the Ukraine, and opposed the secession. Many parts of this event have been called into question, including the legitimacy of voting ballots, and the EU opposed this move. As of right now, Crimea is a part of the Russian Federation.

Illegal trade of arms has been a big issue for a long time. It has lead to disastrous effects in many areas, including the Middle East, where illegal trade of arms has done nothing but escalate violence and increase bloodshed. Estonia and many other countries have already agreed to signing the world's first International Arms Trade treaty, which guaranteed decrease illegal arms trading, and bloodshed.

Estonia supports Ukraine in trying to reclaim Crimea. As tensions escalate, we are increasingly worried about the possibility of more violence occurring. We believe more action must be taken to drive Russian influence out of Crimea, to prevent similar future actions from occurring.

We believe that whatever action necessary should be taken to stop Russian occupation of Ukraine, and prevent future action from Russia similar to this. We would like to avoid conflict if possible, and violence should be avoided if possible, but may need to be used if necessary. We also believe illegal trade of arms should be stopped as stated above. Stricter punishments should be used for people caught trading arms illegally, as well as implementing stricter, more thorough shipment checks to find arms that may be deemed too dangerous for civilian use, or use in general.
Delegation from: Ethiopia  
Represented by: Beachwood High School  
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security  

Position Paper for General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues presented to the General Assembly are Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia looks forward to working with other UN delegations in order to make progress towards the resolution of these sensitive issues.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

In 2014, the Russian Federation positioned troops in areas of Ukraine. After taking control of key parts of Ukrainian infrastructure, the Russian Federation annexed Crimea through the official results of a Crimean referendum. The initial annexation of the territory was the result of the Kharkiv Pact, an agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation allowing the Black Sea Fleet to access naval facilities in Sevastopol in exchange for Ukrainian use of the Russian Federation’s natural resources. Additionally, while the results of the aforementioned referendum are official, they are unfortunately not recognized internationally. In August of 2016, Ukraine reported an increase in Russian military presence along the Crimean demarcation border. With this development came a rise in tensions between the two countries. Only two days later, the Russian Federation reported the deaths of two Russian soldiers and ten injuries, with the Ukrainian operatives captured. Overall, the conflict has caused about ten thousand deaths, over a fourth of which civilian, and around twenty-three thousand citizens injuries.

The Delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia wishes to halt the senseless violence and work towards a peaceful solution. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia denounces Ukraine’s attempts to keep the Russian Federation out of the Crimean territory. Having had unfortunate experiences with separatist movements in Ethiopia including such conflicts as Afar, Gambela, Ogaden, Oromia, and Sidama Zone, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia holds nothing but the utmost empathy for the Russian Federation. Only 31,997 of 1,844,589 registered Crimean voters voted to return to Ukraine, while an overwhelming majority of 1,233,002 elected to join the Russian Federation. The results of the referendum speak for themselves in expressing the want of the people to be absorbed by the Russian Federation, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia feels strongly that they should be allowed to.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to suggest that the Russian Federation and Ukraine return to a modified version of the Kharkiv Pact. Under this plan, the Russian Federation would be granted full control of Crimea, and the Black Sea Fleet would be allowed to continue naval operations on its base in Sevastopol. In exchange for these rights, Ukraine will be allowed to continue its use of Russian natural resources. Of course, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia looks forward to cooperating with other nations in order to come to the best resolution possible.
**II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade**

The trafficking of illicit arms and ammunition has historically been a controversial topic. The fearfulness caused internationally by illegally obtained munitions is nothing short of abhorrent. Illicit arms trades contribute to rebel movements, civil wars, crime rates and terrorism on a local and global scale. Illicitly obtained small arms are responsible for over half of deaths within conflict zones, as well as tens of thousands of non-war related deaths each year. The legitimate uses of many arms make them simply impossible to control, a fact illustrated by the many United Nations resolutions of the past. While all of them well-intended, none of them have thus far proved truly effective in the long run. Additionally, with the development of new technology, the little control held by those in power is being wrenched away.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia emphasizes the need for a solution to put an end to the utterly reprehensible illicit arms trade industry. The illicit arms trade is a topic that is very important to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Throughout its illustrious history, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has struggled with many separatist movements such as those in Afar, Gambela, Ogaden, Oromia, and Sidama Zone. These terrorists were not using legally obtained munitions in their war on peace, but illicit arms. Their ability to obtain these weapons is something that strikes fear in the hearts of Ethiopian women and children, those who are most at risk to death or injury due to illegally obtained arms. Recently, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has supported the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, but as usual, it fell short of being an effective measure in prevent illicit arms trades.

In order to resolve the atrocious crisis at hand, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to propose several vital security measures when it comes to the obtainment and use of any and all firearms. First of all, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia proposes a ban on the totality of firearms not for military use. Special licenses may be obtained for hunting purposes. However, these will come at significant financial fees as well as a rigorous and effective vetting process. Second, the delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia suggests a steep increase in the punishment for those found guilty of partaking in the trafficking of illegal or illicit arms. Lastly, a more effective and efficient system than simply serial numbers should be implemented for the tracking and sale of legally obtained and useful firearms. With this plan in conjunction with the input of other delegations, the delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia hopes to come to a fruitful and effective long term sol
Delegation from: the French Republic
Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The issues before the United Nations General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. France actively supports measures to stop the illicit arms trade and decries the Russian occupation of Ukraine.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

The French Republic does not recognize the Russian occupation of Ukrainian territory as an official annexation. The French Republic does recognize the desire of the Ukrainian people to move away from the East and towards the West, as demonstrated in the ousting of Viktor Yanukovych. France has thus contributed to supporting the Ukrainian nation and promotes and end to hostilities.

The French Republic is concerned with repeated inability of those in Eastern Ukraine to have water or electricity and calls upon related parties to guarantee access to these necessary resources. The French delegation shows support for humanitarian measures in Ukraine as wells as support for persons displaced due to the conflict.

The French Republic has previously adopted sanctions with regards to the fact that the borders of established nations cannot be changed by force without retribution. The French Delegation would also like to call attention to the failure of related parties to adhere to the Minsk Agreements and would like to propose a review of the points held within. The French Republic also supports further dialogue in the Normandy format. In addition, it is recommended that there be some action to curb the occasional flare-ups of violence. The French Delegation would like to commend the work of the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe and would like to call attention to the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Joint Center for Control and Coordination. The French Republic believes this could harm monitors in the region. Finally the French Republic would like to reiterate it condemnation of intimidation and threatening of personnel in the region.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The French Republic supports international efforts to curb the sale of illicit arms. The French Republic recognizes the use of illegal weapons in multiple terror attacks across the European continent, and the French nation. Following such attacks the French government has enacted many reforms intended to curb the sale of illicit arms.

Recognizing the threat posed by the illicit arms trade to the international sphere, the French government believes in transparency of conventional arms transfers. The French Republic does, however, recognize the economic and political benefits of the legal arms trade as stated in the preamble to the United Nation Arms Trade Treaty.

The French Republic firmly believes in the transparency of arms sales and countering illicit arms sales. The French Republic participates in the Wassenaar Agreement on arms trade transparency and controlling the flow of arms. The French government further promotes transparency through the annual report on arms exports. Recognizing the ever changing technological improvements of arms, France proposed the implementation of a clause allowing the adaptation of the scope of the Arms Trade Treaty. The French Republic supports cooperation between international actors and actively follows the provisions of the European Union Common Position 2008/944/CFSP.
Delegation from: Germany
Represented by: Berea-Midpark High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The two issues in front of the General Assembly are the occupation of Ukraine by Russia, and the prevention of illegal arms trade. Germany believes that both these issues are extremely important to do anything about them.

I. Occupation of Ukraine

Russia has occupied Ukraine since 2014 and has caused many European countries worry, especially neighboring countries. This has caused some Ukrainians to fight against soldiers from their own country and became rebels under the command of Russians. This caused many countries in NATO to send troops and aid to Ukraine in hope to end the conflict. Some countries have stopped sending aid because it is too taxing on their country.

Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel rejected sending troops from the west into Ukraine in a place where Russia enjoys overwhelming military might. Instead she wrote a list of sanction targets aimed at preventing further attacks against Ukraine. Germany began talks in Geneva to de-escalate the conflict which gave the west weak provisions to hold Russia accountable. Western critics argued the deal gave Russia an unimportant role in deciding Ukraine’s future.

Germany believes that pressing any more sanctions is no longer necessary because Russia stopped believing the sanctions were bluffs. Instead Germany believes nations should send aid to Ukraine to assist in rebuilding the country. This would help get Ukraine’s economy back up and running and better than it was. This can also benefit any volunteers willing to help to get better and providing aid to other countries.

II. Prevention of Illegal Arms Trade

Illegal arms trade has been around since after the Cold War ended. Armed violence increased, especially in places with poverty or extreme inequality. During the Cold War, international laws were made to prevent the illegal trade of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, nothing was done to stop the transfer of small arms.

Germany was in the top six of conventional weapons exports in 1993-1997. The 2001 conference created the Programme of Action combat and eliminate illegal arms trade. Many countries turned back to regulating small arms more tightly because bananas were more regulated the small arms. On March 28, 2013, an Arms Trade Treaty Draft failed to passed because the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Iran, and the Syrian Arab Republic objected to a consensus for it to be in the final conference. The ATT prompted nations to look for gaps that the illegal arms trade got through.

Germany believes that search groups should be made to look at places where an illegal arms trade may be. This would allow nations to find illegal arms trades a little bit easier to prevent more armed violence. They would also look at legal arms trades to see if they are indeed doing legal business. There should also be a way to prevent anything above a sidearm unable to get into the hands of a citizen.
Might I first state that it is the goal of the Hungarian government to seek peace with our neighbors, whatever our disputes. Might I also state that the two nations in question, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, have a unique place in foreign affairs. We wish no ill will to these states, and do not condone potential violence between them. However, we as a nation must weigh in on this conflict, on our own borders, that has been spiraling out of control. We must address the Hungarian position on this issue.

Throughout history, nations and peoples have warred over lost land and displaced ethnic populations. These conflicts continue into the modern world and have, in recent years, shaken the European continent. From the conflicts that spread after the fall of Yugoslavia to the more recent Catalonia crisis in Spain, Europe has seen its fair share of ethnic and cultural clashes. Closer to Hungary, and the topic of this discussion, is the conflict between Ukraine and Russia over the eastern portion of Ukraine, as well as the Crimean Peninsula, which, in March 2014, was annexed by Russia. The eastern portion of the Ukrainian nation has a sizable Russian majority, and the Russian government defends their occupation as an act of securing Russian rights and protecting their own. Our nation, due not only to our proximity, but also our close relationships with the opposing nations, demands that we give our position on the matter.

In regards to Ukraine, we have had relations since the nation became independent from Russia in 1991 and respect their sovereignty, Hungary being the first country to recognize their legitimacy as an independent country. However, the Ukrainian government has recently enacted legislation that infringes on the language and cultural rights of ethnic Hungarians in Western Ukraine, by enforcing a new language policy that prohibits the use of the Hungarian (or Magyar) language in the nation and mandates that Ukrainian is to be taught in schools in Hungarian majority areas. This has admittedly caused Hungarian-Ukrainian relations to sour.
over the past months. Until the government of Ukraine formally declares and re-establishes respect, recognition, and rights for minorities, we oppose that government’s courses of action while still maintaining basic respect. The other nation in question, Russia, has had a long and established relationship with our country. Their economic aid in terms of energy and our bilateral agreements on European affairs regarding energy, relations with immigrants, and the European Union demonstrate the friendship that exists between our two nations. Russia is especially favorable of the current Orban administration, and our president maintains good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian government also wholeheartedly supports the rights of minorities in Ukraine, especially for Russians. We stand united on the issue of pressuring Ukraine until the rights of minority groups are secured.

On the topic of Russian involvement and occupation of Russian parts of Ukraine, we side with our Russian allies. While occupation is not the course of action that we would take, Russia has limited their forces to the Donbass and Crimea, which are ethnically Russian and Tartar, respectfully. So long as Russia does not mistreat or infringe on the rights of Ukrainians in those territories, we support their decision to stop Ukrainian mistreatment of Russians within their borders. It is therefore the position of the Hungarian Government that Russia, while perhaps are little rash, are justified in their decision to occupy the Donbass and Crimea to safeguard the Russian majority in those groups and to protect their rights in regards to language and culture, should the Ukrainian government reduce their rights as they did to Hungarians. It is also the position of our government that the European Union halt of limit snactions on Russia and for the Hungarian Government to warn Ukraine against any more involvement in their Hungarian population. Therefore, while respecting the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, as we have always done, the Hungarian Government supports the Russian occupation of eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea and the free city of Sevastopol.
Delegation From: Republic of Ghana
Represented By: Lake Ridge Academy

The issues presented to Ghana Council are: Ministry of Military Affairs of Republic of Ghana and Ghana’s National Defense Council. Ghana’s relative departments are working to find effective and practical solutions for solving Ukraine’s Illicit Arms and Occupation problem and are requesting collaboration from all present countries in order to further peace on all levels.

The Situation about Ukraine’s Illicit Arms and Occupation

Recently, Ukraine’s national police website and local media are full of reports on the hunt for illegal weapons. These illegal firearms come from a wide variety of sources. Ukrainian companies are the middlemen who illegally sell arms from European Union countries to other African countries, including Uganda and Chad, according to an investigation by the organized crime and corruption reporting project (OCCRP). However, according to the report by local media institutions, within 48 hours of the signing of the agreement, a special law will be signed by governments and enacted to restore few years’ Ukrainian constitution in accordance with a statement issued by the presidential office of Ukraine. The two side parts will immediately form a government of national unity and form a government of national unity within 10 days. The agreement calls for completing an immediate constitutional reform in September, so as to balance the powers among the President, the government and parliament. Presidential elections will take place immediately after the new constitution is passed no later than December 2018. In addition, the agreement stipulates that the authorities will not impose a state of emergency and that the authorities and the opposition will renounce violence.

Illegal weapons should be handed over to the ministry of the interior within 24 hours after the parliament passes the special law restoring the former constitution, after which illegal weapons will be dealt with according to law. The two sides will work together to restore normal life to the country and lift the occupation of government and public institutions and the blockade of streets, parks and squares. The further investigation into the violence will be conducted under the joint supervision of the authorities, the opposition and the council of Europe. Ghana should be banned from selling weapons to conflict areas, it is forbidden to produce weapons for the domestic
conflicts or extended countries sell weapons production license. At the same time, Ghana can hit the arms smuggling, calling for SADC Member States working together, to prevent the smuggling of weapons in the region and to cut off Ukraine anti-government armed source of weapons.

Ghana’s suggestion about Illicit Arms and Occupation of Ukraine

According to the section 118, article 6 of the Law 《Arms and Ammunition Act》 of the Ghana in 1962, it stipulates that it is illegal to own unregistered guns, many illegal gun dealers pay "settlement fees" to some police officers and traditional opinion leaders in those communities to avoid punishment by law. As a result, instead of arresting and prosecuting illegal gun dealers, police in those areas have demanded huge sums of money in exchange for leniency. In the efforts of the international community, the attitude of the United States, the European Union and other developed countries is particularly critical. The United States, the European Union and other developed countries should play an important role in promoting the building of a mechanism for the illicit proliferation control of light and small arms in Ukraine. In Ukraine, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (salw), as a complex issue integrating security, political, social and economic factors should be universally recognized by all governments and civil society as an urgent problem to be solved.

Ghana should take "one framework, one convention and three pillars" as the main body of the construction of the light and small arms illicit proliferation control mechanism, so that west Africa has a relatively complete "mobilization mechanism”. In order to prevent Ukraine from entering a vicious circle and returning to the dilemma of hindered national reconstruction, proliferation of light and small arms and continuous wars, the international community must exert external influence on this region and promote the construction of a mechanism for preventing the illicit proliferation of light and small arms in this region.

Ghana should call upon all states, such as Namibia, South Africa, Angola, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ledouto, as well as Mozambique, Mauritius and Congo Republic to develop appropriate legal and administrative measures to effectively control the production, import and
export of small arms and light weapons in their own countries, and to criminalize and punish the illegal production, possession, stockpiling and sale of small arms and light weapons through legislation. At the same time, the border and customs authorities of all countries are called upon to strengthen cooperation, exchange relevant information in a timely manner and jointly combat the illegal trade in small and light weapons.
Delegation From: Israel  
Represented By: Bay Village High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly (GA1 DISEC)

The issues before the General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing the Illicit Arms Trade. The nation of Israel is extremely concerned with the issues stated above and hopes to put its best resources forward to find a solution ensuring global peace.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

It seems that the Slavic nation of Ukraine has not felt true peace for most of its history. From the late 18th century the Ukraine has been plagued by Russian influence and often overwhelming domination. Most recently, in March 2014 Russian forces annexed the longly disputed Crimean peninsula of Ukrainian territory, prompting a revival of Cold War tensions between the East and the West. The European Union reacted ardently, imposing the most harsh sanctions of Russia to date. In the United Nations, to mandate protection of Ukrainian territory and to condemn Russian actions entirely in the region, two resolutions have been passed: Resolution 68/262, and Resolution 71/205. However, Russia has ignored these requests and requirements, yielding the need for greater action to take place before more civilians die, Cold War tensions increase even higher, or worse.

The nation of Israel is heartbroken by the ongoing violence in Eastern Ukraine. It is true that these two countries have had their ups and downs in diplomacy over the years. However, in accordance with their shared cultural heritages in regards to the Jewish population present in both states, they are now allies not only in trade, but also in political agreements. Israel has offered support to Ukraine in UN resolutions to uphold its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Due to additionally close ties and agreements with Russia, Israel has yet stated full indignation of Russia’s territorial claims, but has slowly cut off its ties to Russia in recent years because of its beckoning friendship with Israel enemies Iran and Syria. Israel hopes to find a balanced solution, to ensure fairness for each nation involved, while continuing global peace and prosperity.

Israel is supportive to Ukrainian notions of disgust with Russian separatists in the region backed by Moscow forces breaking the ceasefire present and continued war on the peninsula and other close-by areas. In committee the nation of Israel hopes to produce a bilateral solution between the opposing countries that makes sure cultural identity remains in tact, while fighting stops, and Cold War tensions between the EU and Russia lessen.

II. Preventing the Illicit Arms Trade

Every single day around the world weaponry arsenals are sold, looted, and trafficked illegally. These of course are used in crimes that harm the innocent, destroy families, and overall disrupt peace in a manner opposite to the goal of the United Nations. Problems such of these have been tackled many times by the United Nations with the creation of the Arms Trade Treaty, ATT, which puts in place transparency by all signatories of their weaponry transactions to make sure arsenals are not being sold and or used illegally. But sadly, holes are still present in the web
of prohibiting this trade. First, Three countries often labeled as the largest threats to world peace originally opposed it: North Korea, Iran, and Syria, and additionally dozens more have yet failed to sign it. Countries that have signed have seen weapons looted from them due to things such as lack of security, infrastructure, and more. These problems need to be addressed in committee to ensure an end to this endangering trade.

The issue of illicit arms fearfully affects Israel in accordance with its geographical location. One of the largest harborers of illegal weapons in the world (numbers are difficult to track due to the underground elements of the trade), ISIS, holds its territories in very close proximity to Israel. Not only is ISIS stationed here, but the Islamic State’s values issue decrees of wanting to dismantle Israel as a country, creating a direct threat to the Jewish stronghold entirely. Israel has put means into fruition in order to not only protect itself, but to ensure the trade on a global level. It was a signatory on the ATT, strongly believing in its values and means. Domestically, in 2016 the Israeli government has heavily increased punishment for the possession of unauthorized weaponry, in some cases making the minimum sentence six months. Despite this, the illegal trade of weapons will only increase because of improvements in cyber hiding, among other things.

In committee, Israel wants to see new developments put forth towards increasing security, and adjusting current agreements to make them suitable for every country. The time to stop the illicit arms trade is now, and it needs to cease before terrorist attacks, radical states, extravagents, or others gain acquisitions of such tools.
Committee: United Nations Development Program  
Delegation: Italy  

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly, First Committee  

The issues before the United Nations General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The delegation of Italy hopes to create strong relations with other nations in order to form strong resolutions to solve these issues.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

The annexation of Crimea from Ukraine to Russia has since been quite a conflict, not only for the two countries, but for surrounding countries in Europe as well. Conflicts started after the agreement between the two counties, which stated Ukraines independence from Russia, expired. Russia, with the insatiable thirst for Crimean peninsula, occupied much of eastern Ukraine. This occupation, though Russia may still deny its horribility, caused in total more than 10,000 casualties. In recent times to lessen the grasp that Russia has on Ukraine, Ukraine has formed an alliance with the European Union where Nations have deplored Russia for their actions against Ukraine. This in turn did lessen pressure put on Ukraine by the Russians, but it did cause much turmoil and tension from the Russian. As a precautionary measure, Ukraine also tried to join create a relationship with NATO to further protect themselves from Russia. Occupation of Ukraine has caused great issues in advancing the status and wellbeing of the state of Ukraine. If occupation were to end, Ukraine would have the ability to join not only the European Union, but the United Nations as well.

The delegation of Italy, though not in immediate proximity to Ukraine and Russia, realizes that even though this conflict only deals with two countries, It can affect many more around it. Due to this realization, the delegation of Italy recently signed onto U.N. Resolution 68/262, taking full support in the ideals it ensues. This resolution deplores the actions of Russia and their occupation and violence against Ukraine. The delegation of Italy is in full support of ending the occupation of Ukraine, and allowing the country to finally make the economic and social strides it needs to help to citizens of its domain.

Even though there have already been steps taken to end the occupation of Ukraine, the delegation of Italy believes that there can be more actions taken to improve the status of the occupation. As seen by the effects of U.N. Resolution 68/262, it is clear that more policy needs to be made in order to lessen the strength Russia has over Ukraine. The delegation of Italy also believes that there needs to be policy enacted that gives Ukraine the ability to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of their citizens. This would give them the tools to join the European Union and make a substantial impact on countries around them. The delegation of Italy believes that it is imperative that the General Assembly comes up with a proactive plan to help Ukraine deal with occupation by Russia and recover from the horrors of that occupation thereafter.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

In recent times, illicit arms trade has led to many acts of violence caused by individuals who obtained their weapons illegally. Many terrorist organizations rely on black market operations in order to fuel the violence that they enstow on innocent civilians around the globe. To counteract the illicit arms trade, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was signed into agreement in order to track the production of arms and trade between states. Though signing states do account for much of the globe, non-signing states still fuel the illegal sales of weapons. Many of non-signing states account for some of the biggest weapon trades in the world, threatening the success of the treaty.

The delegation of Italy has worked on and supported much policy that deals with preventing the sale of illicit arms trade. The delegation of Italy believes that by limiting the sale of illegal weapons, as well as tracking sales and prosecuting perpetrators, that serious leeway can be made in solving countless problems related to arms trade. The delegation of Italy has worked on many EU policies and resolutions to counteract terrorism and organized crime and arms trade. The delegation of Italy has recently been in support of legislation that deals with gender-based violence as well as societal improvement in places where countless innocent individuals are affected.

In order to address the issue of the illicit arms trade, the delegation of Italy believes that there needs to be a proactive set of resolutions that deal with not only the tracking of illicit weapons trade, but the prosecution of those who fuel it. We believe that the only way to stop the arms trade in its tracks is to stop the problem at its source and track weapons already in circulation. To solve this issue, the delegation of Italy believes that this resolution must encompass not only intracountry tracking and prosecution, but also intercountry cooperation and communication. With unity between states, the delegation of Italy believes that we can mend the issue of illicit arms trade, saving lives and stopping terrorism in its tracks.
Ivory Coast
Jefferson Area High School
GA1-DISEC

Statement Introducing Topics:
The topics being discussed by GA1-DISEC are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Ivory Coast is committed to the unity, peace and sovereignty of all nations, and will do all in its power to ensure these values to every nation.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

On August 22, 2014 The Russian Federation invaded the Ukraine under the leadership of Russian president Vladimir Putin. Conflict between the Ukraine and Russia emerged at the end of 2013 when the Ukrainian government rejected an association with the European Union, in an attempt to build a stronger relationship with Russia. This met severe backlash by the Ukrainian people, spearheaded by violent protests in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, which became deadly by early 2014. Closely following the chaos caused by protests, Russia annexed the south-east region of Crimea. This was followed by the eastern cities Luhansk and Donetsk being seized by pro-Russian separatists, declaring them Independent from Ukraine. The Ukrainian government mobilized their military in an attempt to reclaim the region, but failed as the separatist groups were being backed by Russia. On February 11, 2015 a cease-fire was called in the passing of Minsk II in an attempt to alleviate the ongoing violence in east. Minsk II also outlined the creation of a security zone, which has been violated on a daily basis.

With previous support from Ukraine, in relation to Ivory Coast’s civil unrest in late 2011, as well as trade relations. Ivory Coast is in full support of the Ukrainian government and is fully prepared to provide the Ukraine with all Humanitarian aid feasible. The Ivory Coast believes the the only efficient and permanent way to end the occupation of Ukraine is to strengthen the Ukrainian government, whilst simultaneously disarming the separatists through militant action.

The Ivory Coast believes ending the occupation of Ukraine will not prove to be an easy feat but is achievable through several steps. The first of which being the development of the Ukrainian government economically. Even after the violence in the Ukraine has long passed there will a lasting effect on the government and society of Ukraine through the economy. Economic and humanitarian aid should be the the first priority of this committee. Secondly the aggression of Russia needs to be addressed. Over the last few decades Russia has shown an utter disregard for any sort of international agreement or national sovereignty. This disregard has caused several international conflicts provoking violence, that warrants immediate action by the security council. The Ivory Coast urges all member nations of this committee to assist our brothers in need through humanitarian and monetary aid necessary.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The Global Arms Trade grosses approximately $ 80-90 billion (USD) annually, with the Illicit Arms Trade making $10 billion (USD) per annum. While the Illicit Arms Trade effects society and the global economy in and of itself, it brings about an even larger secondary consequence, fueling conflict and crime on a global scale. The UNODC has identified the Illicit Arms Trade as significantly linked to terrorism and other serious crime.

The Ivory Coast has suffered greatly from arms trafficking. The Illicit Arms Trade was a significant factor in fostering the civil unrest in Ivory Coast from 1999-2002, than again in 2011. The Illicit Arms Trade has also contributed to humanitarian mistreatment in Ivory Coast, as several former officials has used it to back violence toward the government as well as civilians. More recently Ivory Coast has suffered at the hands of the Illicit Arms Trade through terrorist attacks in 2016. On March 13, 2016 at Grand Bassam, near Abidjan, 19 people were killed, including 16 civilians and 3 Ivorian soldiers, at a beach resort. With responsibility being taken the North-African branch of Al-Qaeda, in the islamic
Maghreb (AQ-M). Several subsequent attacks have taken place in following years with the major suspect being Malian-based groups Ansar al-Dine (AAD). Throughout 2015 and 2016, the Ivory Coast government bolstered domestic counterterrorism legislation and law enforcement. To implement this policy the Ivory Coast government passed several counterterrorism laws in 2015, “including laws criminalizing recruitment and advocacy to terrorism and laws allowing officers to tap phone lines and conduct searches at night.” After the terrorist attacks of March 2016, the Ivorian government has allocated “80 billion CFA Francs (137.2 million USD) to the fight against terrorism and launched a major national counterterrorism investigation”, and arrested more than 80 people in connection to the attacks, “at least 16 of whom were deemed to have been directly involved.”

The Ivory Coast believes there are several factors involved in the prevention and detection of trading of illicit arms. In relation to prevention of arms trafficking Ivory Coast recommends a more efficient, updated database for the registry of manufactured arms. As well as more strict security measures put in place to protect arms from theft, thereby limiting the quantity of illicit arms in circulation. The Ivory Coast would also recommend the creation of a new organization dedicated to the tracking of illicit arms. This new organization would heavily utilize the previously mentioned database as a way to account for and track illicit arms, in accordance with UNODA, UNODC and ATT.
Delegation from: State of Japan  
Represented by: Beachwood High School  
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

Position Paper For General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues before General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security (GA1 DISEC) are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The State of Japan hopes to achieve effective and fast-acting solutions within the committee.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

Since 2014, Ukraine and Russia have engaged in a disgraceful conflict that has developed into a worldwide issue. Beginning when Russia interfered in Ukraine’s trade deals with the EU, tensions between the two bordering states since then have skyrocketed. The annexation of Crimea is a violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty, while the UN deems the referendum held, which supported the annexation, as illegitimate. The annexation has also directly caused a 6.8% shrinkage in Ukraine’s economy in 2014. The following year, Russia had violated numerous ceasefires, including the Minsk Peace Agreements. Furthermore, clashes between pro-Russian separatists and the Ukrainian government in Donbass plague the country. In July of 2014, the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 in rebel-held Eastern Ukraine & the delayed access for investigators to examine the site infuriated the international community. At least 10,090 people having been killed of which 2,777 were civilians, while an estimated 23,966 have been injured. There are 1.5 million internally displaced persons coming from eastern Ukraine. 750,000 children do not have access to clean water and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has warned the global community about the 3 million people experiencing grief and isolation in the conflict zones. The UN has released a plethora of resolutions denouncing and condemning Russia’s interference with Ukrainian affairs, but to little effect. The EU and countries across the globe have sanctioned Russia as well, but also to no avail. Additionally, being located between Russia and the EU establishes Ukraine as a crucial component to ensuring regional stability. The conflict has had political, economic, and social effects on the international community, and there is no end in sight.

Since the conflict’s beginning, Japan has remained a staunch ally of Ukraine. In order to support Ukraine’s efforts for stabilization and reform, Japan emphasizes improving Ukraine’s economic situation, restoring democracy, and encouraging a nation-wide dialogue for national integrity. Japan is one of many responsible member states of the UN who consider Russia’s interference with Ukraine a clear violation of international laws and demands that Russia ceases all military activity in Ukraine. After Ukraine’s Euromaidan protests, Japan has pledged over 1.5 billion USD to Ukraine to assist in developing infrastructure, purchasing medical equipment, and budgetary support. As Ukraine’s heavy industry, situated near conflict zones, takes a heavy toll, Japan has been providing assistance in promoting industry and attracting foreign capital as well as providing technology to Ukraine’s government to implement a solid economic and monetary policy. Japan has also provided aid for Ukraine’s social infrastructure and public services to better the welfare of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine’s government has been facing corruption and other structural problems, but Japan has been supporting Ukraine’s reform efforts and encourages both domestic and international dialogue. Along with many other responsible nations of the global society, Japan has imposed numerous sanctions on Russia to help the nation understand their reprehensible actions.

Japan has provided a tremendous amount of assistance to Ukraine in its struggle for territorial integrity, and the nation plans on further helping resolve the conflict throughout the conference. The delegation of Japan would like to see more efficient and effective temporary ceasefires put in place and implementing the Minsk peace agreements. The delegation of Japan also looks favorably upon situating UN peacekeeping forces in conflict zones to help resolve violence and increasing funding and resources to the OSCE. Furthermore, Japan encourages national dialogue between nations to establish mutually beneficial solutions. Additionally, Japan calls on other nations to contribute to recuperating Ukraine through improving infrastructure, recovering economy, and providing assistance to those affected by the conflict with the help of the UNHRC. Lastly, Japan believes creating long-lasting solutions that will appease both the countries in conflict and the global community while respecting national sovereignty is essential to ending the horrific violence in eastern Ukraine. Generally speaking, the delegation of Japan looks forward to collaborating with fellow member states to create long-term, effective solutions to alleviate conflict within Ukraine.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The global arms trade has been a lucrative industry since its inception, but the illicit trade that has blossomed alongside has led to dire consequences. The illicit arms trade has supported civil wars, raises crime rates across the globe, and provides means for terrorism. Saudi Arabia, the world’s second largest arms importer, and nine other arab states have provided arms and military forces to aid Yemen in fighting its civil war, but their use of arms have led to over 5,000 civilian deaths and extreme human rights violations. Firearms have also been used in 245,000 homicides (excluding war torn areas), and it is no surprise that terrorists use firearms in order to kill and spread their message. One of the main problems of the illicit arms trade is the market for small arms and light weapons. These easy to conceal but lethal weapons have been the weapon of choice for terrorists, and they have accounted for 60,000 to 90,000 of the deaths caused by civil conflict every year. A shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile, which can be purchased from the black market for a few thousand dollars, can shoot down a commercial airliner. The root of these problems lies within infrastructure, international unity, and technological innovation. The value of the global arms trade has 88.4 billion dollars in 2014 with the top five arms exporters being the USA, China, Russia, France, and the UK. However, countries such as China do not sign arms treaties, which significantly hinders efforts to track arms and to keep them from falling into the wrong hands. Additionally, many countries lack the infrastructure necessary to keep borders secure and manage stocks to prevent theft, loss, and diversion. The lack of comprehensive registries and systematic marking along with the rise of unlicensed manufacturing and 3D printed guns further worsens the ability to track and detect illicit firearms. However, the legal use of firearms for military, law enforcement, and legal purposes invalidates the solution of banning the global arms trade in general. All in all, the prevention of illegal trafficking of firearms faces many challenges.

Japan has been known for its anti-firearm policies. Japan’s weapons law forbids the possession of firearms with few exceptions, and its licensing procedures are extensive and lengthy. As a result, only 44 people have died of gun-related homicide in Japan over the past eight years, while the USA had over 15,000 people killed by guns in 2017. As a result, Japan has had virtually zero terrorist incidents in recent years, and even the infamous Yakuza crime group tends to forgo guns. However, after nearly five decades of a ban on arms exports, Japan has lifted the bans in 2014 in order to strengthen Japan’s military capabilities. Japan takes the arms trade very seriously and doesn’t export weapons to countries violating international treaties or UNSC resolutions, only exports when contributing to peace or national security, and forbids the transfer of arms to 3rd countries. Japan is also a signatory of the Arms Trade Treaty, which calls on nations to provide transparency in their governments global arms transactions, and even hosted the Fourth Conferences of States Parties to Arms Trade Treaty. Japan does not take the global arms trade lightly and works hard to ensure the prevention of illicit arms.

Throughout the conference, Japan looks forward to collaborating with other countries to create effective solutions to manage the problem. First, Japan proposes working with the UNROCA and UNPOA for effective implementation of the ATT. Furthermore, Japan hopes to spread effective arms marking and detection procedures that will significantly reduce the effort needed to track arms. Along with this, Japan believes improving infrastructure in underdeveloped governments is essential to prevent theft, loss, and diversion of firearms. Finding solutions to armed conflicts will help prevent the illicit arms trade at its root cause, and transfers of arms to countries violating international treaties and UNSC resolutions should be completely banned. Additionally, Japan promotes nations to impose stricter civilian gun ownership policies similar to its own in order to reduce crime rates and encourages stricter cyber policing in order to detect and stop dark web arms deals. Overall, Japan hopes to increase international cooperation and foster an effective solution that will bring an end to the illicit arms trade.
Delegation from: Jordan  
Represented by: Jefferson Area High School

Position Paper for GA1- DISEC

The issues before the Disarmament and International Security Committee are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hopes for a peaceful solution for Ukraine in their status as a country and hopes to come to a solution to help prevent illicit arms trade, not only in Jordan, but in the whole world.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

As a country that has previously experienced the menace of Russia, Jordan supports a peaceful solution to remove Russia from Ukraine. The Soviet Union blocked Transjordan’s application for UN membership until 1948, and was one of the last countries to recognize Jordan as an independent state. Even though Jordanian-Russian relations have improved a great amount since then, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan believes that Russia has no right to invade Ukraine, seeing as over 100 years ago Ukraine gained their independence from the Soviet Union.

Jordan believes that the problems caused from this Russian invasion of Ukraine, such as causing over one million people to become displaced, do not contain a large enough reward to even be worth it for Russia. However, Russia seems to be persistent with their invasion, even though the United Nations has condemned them multiple times. After the Minsk Protocol was agreed upon, Russia seemed to disregard it completely. This is completely unacceptable.

One strategy to alleviate the war would be to deploy United Nations peacekeepers in phases while Ukraine implements some of the measures that they agreed to under the Minsk Agreements. One of the questions with sending in these peacekeepers is if Russia will accept any NATO troops that are part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. However, it is very probable that Russia would not be accepting to this. Any agreement would have to start with Russia making the first move to ease tensions. With Russia being the one to start the war, it is even more unlikely that they would just give up. Jordan believes that the Minsk Accords must be completely implemented in order to come to a solution. That is why we support the implementation of phases of United Nations peacekeepers in order to come to a solution.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Even though Jordan has not signed the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, we still believe that something must be done to stop the illicit arms trade that is plaguing the world. This business has contributed to the unrest in many different countries, the rise of many terrorist groups, and crime and fear all over the world. As a country that has seen plenty of the consequences of this horrible trade, we are open to any ideas that one has in relation to a solution.

This illegal trade of arms has led to much destruction, especially in the countries surrounding us. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, and Israel/Palestine have been hugely affected by this issue. It has contributed to wars starting, civil unrest, corruption, terrorist groups, and so much more. Since we border all of these countries, it often spills over into our country. We believe that some of the
largest problems in this issue are technological advances, monetary incentive, and a lack of resources.

Jordan has collaborated with the United Nations many times to try to help this problem. Earlier this year, we collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen border control. We need to focus on a number of different things to stop this problem. First, the growing threat that has been posed to civil society by the collection and trade of these weapons and the role played by these weapons in fueling the violence that affects civil society. Second, the political, economic and social consequences of the accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. This includes their role in war, stopping development, heightening of crime rates, reduced school enrollment rates, and the exposing of women and children to violence. Third, the transparency of military budgets with countries such as China, a large country with a high production rate that is not transparent. Fourth, an establishment of international regulations to help control trade of small arms that would include things such as manufacturing restrictions. Lastly, Jordan believes that there must be a bilateral and regional cooperation and assistance to support help aimed at combating illicit trafficking and circulation in rural and small communities.

The illicit trade of small arms and light weapons has caused mass destruction of enough countries already. With the help of our fellow United Nations members, Jordan hopes to help bring an end to the suffering caused by this horrible problem.
Delegation from: The State of Kuwait
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The issues before the General Assembly are: The occupation of Ukraine by Russia; and the prevention of illicit arms trade. Kuwait is invested in the rights of all minorities and demonstrates this through coalition forces in order to battle illegal weapons and oppression worldwide.

I. The Occupation of Ukraine by Russia

When the Soviet Union existed, present-day Ukraine was under its control. It fought with the USSR over control and eventually fell into sovereignty as its own nation. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, though independent, Ukraine had a devalued currency, a mismanaged government, a lack of any type of economic growth, and corruption. The EU gave Ukraine an opportunity to be given funds in exchange for change. The President disagreed at the last moment and this sent the country into protest, and the government was overthrown. He fled to Russia, and the Russian Federation did not recognize the interim government of Ukraine. They supported Pro-Russian individuals and eventually occupied Crimea, a peninsula that was declared a part of Ukraine in the Soviet Era. The State of Kuwait was under the occupation of another nation and recognizes and supports Ukraine in its ongoing struggle with The Russian Federation.

The State of Kuwait was annexed by Saddam Hussein’s Iraq in 1990, and it was liberated by an American military coalition in 1991. Due to this, the Kuwaiti Government solemnly stands with Ukraine as their sovereignty is being threatened by a nearby power. Russia and Ukraine have signed many treaties and charters that specifically relate to the issue at hand. The first being the Russian-Ukrainian Partition Treaty on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet (1997, 2010), it stated that Russia could maintain minimal troops in Crimea as they had been there prior to the crisis. This was blatantly disobeyed when Russia expanded past their allowed bases and annexed Crimea. The second, Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, was signed by The United Kingdom, The United States, Russia and Ukraine. It states that these nations reaffirm their legal obligation to respect the borders of Ukraine, including Crimea, and to never use any notion of threat or force against the borders or independence of Ukraine. The Russian Federation and Ukraine also have signed the Charter of the United Nations, which has numerous clauses that relate to sovereignty.

The State of Kuwait has shown a pattern of supporting treaties and standing up against human injustice worldwide. Kuwait strongly believes that a violation of the UN Charter shall not go unnoticed. As this is a current and rapidly evolving issue, Kuwait would push for immediate sanctions against Russia by the UN. This occupation conflict has also affected the civilians within Crimea and Kuwait would push for humanitarian aid to be sent to the areas affected by
the rebels. The Kuwaiti Delegation takes this Charter violation sincerely and advocates for the immediate action by the United States, United Kingdom and France, nations that signed on the Budapest Memorandum that has been subsequently breached by the illegal actions of Russia. The notion that a nation may violate the UN Charter without sanctions or repercussions is unprecedented and allows for other nations to do so in the future. The Delegation of Kuwait believes this to not be a humanitarian aid crisis, but also a crisis in terms of the blatant violation of this body’s governing document.

II. The Worldwide Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit Arms, a problem that affects all nations worldwide regardless of geographic location or economic structure. The middle east has had a upsurge in illicit small arms in the past decade which leads to human rights offenses. As stated by the UNODA, States have an inherent right to self-defense and can use legal armed force under the constraints of the UN Charter and International Humanitarian Law. Illicit arms trade occurs with non-state actors, that are not subject to these stringent international regulations. Different examples of illicit arms use and procurement: government forces abusing their arms; arms from legal stocks diverted to illicit use; already illegal weapons that arrive in crisis zones.

The State of Kuwait is surrounded by areas plagued by overwhelming amounts of illicit arms trade and actually suffers from this elusive problem itself. The Kuwaiti Delegation is vehemently against the spread of small and light arms to non state actors through illicit means. Kuwait believes that illicit arms threaten the peace and security of the region and do lead to humanitarian violations.

The Delegation of the State of Kuwait has pushed for numerous international reforms in regards to worldwide illicit arms trade. Kuwait also has instituted a national campaign to collect unlicensed firearms and ammunition, in order to curb national illicit arms. Kuwait has committed to the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the International Tracing Instrument, as well as the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, while ensuring the legitimacy of the basic state self defense rights. Firearms are readily available and simple in operation, which allows for them to be instrumental in illegal activities. In order to prevent this from occurring in the world, nations may not neglect stockpile management and protection, as these are vulnerabilities that could lead to the swift spread of illicit firearms. These principles and policies that the State of Kuwait has adopted can be universally instituted worldwide in order to prevent the bloodshed of the innocent.
The issues before the General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Mexico is a country with many flaws, however we contain some of the world's greatest people who are devoted to any cause put before them like these very own issues.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

Mexico sees the growing threat within the country of Ukraine. In 2014, the Russian Federation annexed Crimea from Ukraine leading to discord in the region. Thousands of people have died these past years, 10,090 people to be exact. Resolutions have been past condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, these have done nothing for they have broken international law time and time again.

Mexico also condemns the actions of the Russian Federation. Taking one's land and then slaughtering it’s people and then once international law is set in place, they break it. The Russian Federation has gone too far. This ends now...

Mexico sees that a simple solution is to get the Russian Federation out of Ukraine, send in U.N. peacekeeping troops, and put down into international law that the Russian Federation has no right to have a piece of Ukraine.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Mexico is said to be 2nd most violent country in the world. 23,000 homicides in 2016, a level surpassed only by Syria. Mexico is covered with drug cartels running towns, even whole cities. These cartels run drugs, illicit arms, and money illegally all over the country and world. As a matter of fact, Mexico has lost more people and money to the violence this past decade than during the times of W.W.II.

Mexico believes that illicit arms trade is an ever growing issue, especially here. People are dying by the hands of the beholder of these arms. It sickens the Mexican government that both in our country and in the world is such a mess with this “illness” of a crime.

Mexico is working on ways to fix it’s own problems. By solving our own we can then fix those around us. Stricter policing, more background checks, and more government involvement can save us. Help us to help you…
Delegation from: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
Represented By: Solon High School

Position Paper for Disarmament and International Security Committee

The concerns to be addressed by the Disarmament and International Security Committee are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is committed to a peaceful process regarding the territory of Ukraine, and is supportive of measures which seek to end illicit arms trading.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

In 2014, the Russian Federation violently annexed Crimea from Ukraine causing major conflict and land disputes between Russia and Ukraine. This conflict has caused the Russian government to control eastern portions of the country and the Crimean peninsula to come under the complete control of the Russian Federation and it has become a major conflict. Additionally, because of this major dispute, 10,090 people have been killed including 2,777 civilians with an additional 23,000 civilians being injured. This conflict is immensely affecting civilians as well as soldiers and must come to an end. Russia’s actions have caused panic and distress over European security and stability and the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal agrees to help inhibit further destruction. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal believes that the present situation in Ukraine demands the attention of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee.

Even with the creation of UN Resolution 68/262 that specifically listed rules and regulations in regards to the disruption of Ukrainian territorial integrity, the Federation of Russia has continually ignored international laws. Russia claims that a referendum was held in 2014 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol with an overwhelming majority in the area voting to be part of Russia. Furthermore, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal fought a civil war in the years 1996-2006, this war was brutal and killed over 13,000 people. In the end it was solved with a peace deal that was signed by Prime Minister Koirala and rebel chief Prachanda. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal predominantly neutral in this conflict and does not support use of violence or armed force by any member state. Nepal firmly believes the situation in Ukraine should be solved peacefully and without major conflict; however, Nepal does recognize that Russia has great interests in Ukraine and that this conflict could become extremely violent.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal feels that diplomacy should be used to solve this conflict. Nepal used peace to solve its own internal conflicts and believes the same should be done externally between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Nepal believes a peaceful agreement of some sort should be worked out between the governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. A calm solution for the Russian-Ukrainian conflict can only come if the the Russian and Ukrainian governments work together and compromise. If the two government heads would be willing to meet to discuss their differing opinions, they could certainly create a solution that satisfies the needs of both countries. Ultimately, the Federal Democratic Republic
of Nepal hopes that the delegates of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee can work together and offer a peaceful solution for the conflict in Ukraine.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The Illicit Arms Trade has been complicit in contributing to human suffering, political repression, crime, and terror among civilian populations. This horrible activity is purely destructive and causes much havoc. This market is one that allows terrorists, dangerous rebels, and extremists to arm themselves and spread their radical views all across the world. The Illicit Arms Trade is a global issue affecting many nations all over the world, from the Islamic State in the Middle East, to violent Basque separatists in Spain, to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (F.A.R.C.) in Latin America. Illicit Arms Trading is a heinous industry that causes the completely unnecessary deaths of countless lives of innocent people. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal believes that the United Nations General Assembly First Committee must unite to attack this atrocious industry.

In 2014, the Arms Trade Treaty, which has been agreed upon by the members of the United Nations, came into play; it establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade. The treaty had a total of one hundred and thirty signatories and ninety two nations ratified it. However, around half of all member states of the United Nations did not oppose it, including the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. The treaty does not focus on the importers of illegal arms, only the exporters. This means that the treaty is punishing those who sell the weapons not those who use them in violent manners. Nepal believes that the Arms Trade Treaty is a currently ineffective way to combat the Illicit Arms Trade and must be replaced with a more effective method.

Nepal believes that a effective way to prevent the Illicit Arms Trade is border security. Border security works to catch any potential arms traffickers (as well as other traffickers) in an efficient and relatively safe manner. Secure borders are of great importance to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Border Security would potentially solve the issue of the Illicit Arms Trade by catching arms traffickers and not allowing them to further their illegal trade. The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal hopes the the United Nations General Assembly First Committee can create a border security change that will put an end to the deathly, destructive, and international, Illicit Arms Trade.
Delegation From: Nigeria
Represented by: Avon Lake High School
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and National Security

Position Paper for the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and National Security

The issues before the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and National Security are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Nigeria strives for peace between Russia and Ukraine, and modernizing efforts pertaining to the oversight of illicit weapons and their path to terrorist organizations.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

The United Nations as well as Nigeria strongly believe that Russia’s occupation of Ukraine is a violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The annexation of Crimea and the referendum held in 2014 has no validity and therefore there is no change pertaining to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In addition, Russian aggression within Ukraine, specifically the eastern territorial regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, has caused the death of more than 10,000 people and the injuring of more than 23,000. As a result of the human rights abuses, cyber warfare and aggression more than 1.6 million individuals are internally displaced. Due to Nigeria’s economic and educational relationship with Ukraine, preserving Ukrainian integrity and condemning Russia’s actions is incredibly important to this delegation.

Diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Ukraine were established on December 10th, 1992. Since then, Nigeria and Ukraine have worked together to create agricultural, economic, educational, cultural, humanitarian and technological relations. In 2017 trade between the countries amounted to 95.64 million dollars which was about a 9% decrease from the previous year. Trading with Ukraine has greatly contributed to the economic expansion of Nigeria. However, if Russian occupation continues, this progress will be lost, and Nigeria will lose an important trading partner. Nigeria also relies upon Ukraine for agro-industrial developmental growth as we are currently trying to expand that aspect of our economy. Nigeria has been interested in sending specialists to Ukraine to acquire new knowledge pertaining to this field. If Russian aggression occurs, the safety of these specialists will be compromised. Going hand in hand, we are looking towards Ukraine in the growth and promotion of high-tech industries and space research. In an educational aspect, approximately 5,000 Nigerian students study in Ukraine today. Exposure to Ukrainian culture is seen in secondary schools, and educational videos were introduced. In addition, there has been a focus on the man-made famine of 1932-1933 known as the “Holodomor” and stressing the consequences of the event caused by the USSR. The Association of Nigerian-Ukrainian Friendship was established and provides unification of the Ukrainian diaspora within Nigeria. In conclusion, Nigeria has a very strong relationship with Ukraine in many aspects and the promotion and growth of these efforts is affected by the current situation. Therefore, to maintain this relationship Ukrainian territorial and political integrity is incredibly important.

The Russian Federation must be stopped from further pursuing aggression by the usage of sanctions. Sanctions against Russia will eventually result in withdrawal from Russian territory. Nigeria has voted to support the UNGA’s efforts to impose sanctions against Russia. In addition, a coordinated and targeted international effort focusing on the de-occupation of Ukraine can be used to get rid of the Russian
military within Ukraine's borders. In order to do so, a larger international audience must be addressed by seminars, conferences and speeches that foreign diplomats attend. Due to the vital relationship with Ukraine, Nigeria finds great importance in the de-occupation of Russia in Ukraine.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit arms are found internationally and contribute to terror, political repression, suffering and crime worldwide. Tracking this trade has proven to be incredibly difficult as majority are trafficked by non-state actors and rather fall into the hands of terrorist organizations, creating a national and international security issue. This is a prominent issue and as a result the United Nations of Disarmament Affairs organization was created and later the Arms Trade Treaty. This issue is prominent within Nigeria, which is where approximately 70% of the illicit arms in West Africa are circulating. This is due to a lack of technological and infrastructural safeguards in place within Nigeria and other states. In addition, a new frontier has been opened due to the possibility of making weapons with the use of 3D printers. In order to combat the illicit arms trade, the delegation of Nigeria believes that nations must work together and unify, putting aside differences and focusing on what many governments face and fear.

Nigeria is concerned with the issue of illicit weapons, due to a first hand experience, pertaining to the terrorist group of Boko Haram which has stolen many weapons as a result of weak technological and infrastructural safeguards in place. The delegation of Nigeria strongly agrees with the statements of the ATT, that weapons must be transferred and stored safely. Public safety is a major concern when weapons get into the wrong hands and it is every government’s responsibility to protect its people. Therefore, it is important to continue the efforts and not leave this trade unattended as it will impede the future generations and get out of hand. Focusing on the spread of weapons to non-state actors but also state actors through effective technology and management of stockpiles is the primary focus of Nigeria, as knowing where these weapons are will allow for the reduction of the problem. In order to promote stability within the Sahel, the Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project was created, and included Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. This was done in an effort to promote regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. The delegation of Nigeria believes that states need to work together and share information in order to get the business of trading illicit arms under control. Management of weapons is essential for a change to be made and focus needs to be placed on advancements in technology and infrastructure.

The delegation of Nigeria fully supports the Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects which focuses on improving laws pertaining to small arms, import and export controls, stockpile management and the sharing of knowledge. Overall a greater control over these weapons is needed in order to reduce the business of trading illicit arms. If knowledge is dispersed among states freely it becomes much simpler to know where these weapons are and prevent malevolent organizations from acquiring them. In addition safeguards can be applied if infrastructure improves. Overall, the delegation of Nigeria wants to focus on how to get rid of the problem at the root, meaning knowing where these weapons come from and making sure they are where they should be.
Delegation: Pakistan  
Represented by: Avon Lake High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly, First Committee
The issues presented before the General Assembly are as following: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The delegation of Pakistan hopes to come to a peaceful solution in regards to both points of controversy and is very much looking forward to working with every delegation present.

I: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine
The delegation of Pakistan is currently caught in the middle of the Russia-Ukraine dispute. Pakistan has been on pleasant terms with Ukraine and both respective countries have embassies in their capitals and celebrated 25 years of diplomatic relations. Russia and Pakistan are also on good terms and have recently celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations.

Tensions with Pakistan, Ukraine, and Russia grow seeing as Pakistan is on fairly good terms with both countries. After events in Crimea and other part of Ukraine, the country looks to Pakistan mainly for moral support rather than military support. Pakistan cannot offer more than moral support considering the country is having its own disputes with neighboring countries. The delegation of Pakistan adopted the Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine) from the General Assembly in 2017. The delegation of Pakistan expresses the hope that the Ukrainian crisis can be resolved through a peaceful means and diplomatic talks.

II: Preventing Illicit Arms Trade
The country of Pakistan does not agree with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or the NPT and will not become a signatory to it. Pakistan has been building its arsenal in recent years, mainly driven by a rivalry with India and its borders. In the beginning of the NPT, Pakistan was a big supporter, however backed out more and more as the United States began showing support to India. The delegation sees nuclear armament as a way to protect against its rivals should they need them, especially if the rival also has a nuclear arsenal. The Taliban occupies parts of Pakistan and the illicit arms trade is very convenient for them. Only about two million out of the proposed 18 million weapons in the country are legal. The Pakistani government is working to tackle illegal weapons, however, remains firm on its belief that the NPT and treaties similar to it are too extreme and uses its stockpile as a source of defense. The delegation of Pakistan is willing to work toward an agreement that is more fair to the circumstances it faces.
Delegation: Panama
From: Jefferson Area High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly, First Committee

The issues before the Disarmament and International Security are: Addressing the Occupation in Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. Panama is devoted to keep order and peace regarding the occupation in Ukraine. Panama is also willing to help and aide in the curbing of the trade illicit arms throughout the world.

I. Addressing the Occupation in Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine have been in a dispute over the land of Crimea since its Russian annexation in 2014. This dispute has caused around 10,000 deaths and about 23,000 injured civilians. The Russian Federation has been widely criticized for violating Ukraine's sovereignty. Since the Russian Federation has annexed Crimea is has disregarded multiple international laws and has increased its military force on the Crimean Peninsula. This disruption has also caused millions of Ukrainian civilian to become internally displaced people.

Panama fully recognizes the situation occurring in the Crimean Peninsula. As a supporting country of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/26 adopted March 27, 2014, we believe that the we need to recognize the internationally known borders of Ukraine and underscore the invalidity of the 2014 Crimean referendum. Panama supports Ukraine’s claims of the Russian Federation violating its sovereignty. Panama finds that it is fully unacceptable that a world power like the Russian Federation was able to violate a country’s national sovereignty. Panama would like to stress that if this situation is left alone it will worsen for the country of Ukraine and its citizens. Standing with the resolution 68/26 Panama knows that the referendum was rigged by the government of the Russian Federation and therefore has no validity.

Panama believes that it would be in the best interest of both of the involved nations if the problem was resolved between them. Panama would not like to see anymore innocent civilians be killed due to an outbreak of war in the area. Panama is in full supportance of a monitored meeting held between both the Russian Federation and the Country of Ukraine. Panama believe that there needs to be a quick resolution in order to stop the tenison. We also believe that if there is a quick resolution more lives can be saved and are can soon began to heal. If this occupation continues to occur there may be a need for more drastic measures in order to punish Russia. If it contains other nations may have to enter in order to halt this illegal occupation.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Panama is severely concerned with the growing popularity of the illicit arms trade nationally and internationally. Panama is in the direct trade route of illegal firearms for Columbia to other parts of South America. The amount of tracking for illicit arms trading is lacking. Many smaller countries lack the needed infrastructure in order to help combat this growing issue. If the growing issue of the illicit arms trade is not completed now it will become very easy for illegal
forearms and other dangerous weapons to fall into the hands of terrorists. As technology advances, it is becoming easier for the transfer of illicit firearms to take place. As the dark web is increasing in use the illicit arms trade will rapidly take off.

Panama believes that we need to stop this trade at the root of its problem. If we do not quickly stop the trade the world will become a very dangerous place. As a supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty we believe that we need to regulate international trade of conventional weapons. Panama believes that regulating the trade of conventional weapons will help aid in maintaining and keeping regional peace. Panama also believe that stricter laws should be placed in order to combat this growing issue in underdeveloped countries.

Panama is currently working on putting in a system to closely monitor the trade of illicit arms due to its involvement as a trade route from Columbia. We also believe that we need to implement modern infrastructure in smaller countries since they are more likely to have a larger issue with illicit arms. As a result we would be able to keep a closer eye on the movement of firearms throughout the world.
Delegation from: Russian Federation
Represented by: Solon High School

Position Paper for the Disarmament International & International Security Committee

The issues before the First Committee of the General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine; and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

The Crimean War is an ongoing conflict that began in 2014. The Russian Federation annexed Crimea, located in southern Ukraine, as a result of the expiration of a deal between Ukraine and the Russian Federation letting Russia use a shipping port on the Crimean peninsula. In March of 2014 President Vladimir Putin dispatched Russian Special forces to Crimea, days after a referendum took place, in which 95.5% of Crimean citizens declared their allegiance to the Russian Federation, not to the Ukraine. The Russian Federation has acted purely in the best interests for citizens who consider themselves to be ethnic Russians, and will continue to take any preventative measures to ensure the safety, and prosperity of the Russian people.

The delegation of the Russian Federation is supremely dedicated to the protection of the rights of ethnic Russians. The United Nations has rejected the claim of this ballot, through numerous UN resolutions, including United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 68/262 which was drafted in response to the Russian territorial gains in Crimea which strongly condemned the Delegation’s actions and declared that the Ukrainian government have the right to Crimea. UNGA Resolution 71/205, entitled "Situation of Human Rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine), which called into question the human right violations taken place in the Crimean peninsula.

The Russian Federation has robustly condemned the separatists and nationalists who are responsible for the deaths of Ukrainian civilians, but the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has slandered the Russian Federation and provided false satellite images in order to continue propping up the absurd and inconceivable notion that a foreign nation does not have the right to expand its borders and protects its very own citizens.

The Russian Federation currently maintains little to no diplomatic relations with Ukraine, with the last significant bilateral treaty between the two members states dating back to 1997. The Russian Federation proposes the inception of a new committee called UNCER: United Nations Council on Ethnic Rights, with the intended goal of recognizing and preserving the rights of a region whose people ethnically recognize themselves as members of a different country and/or state that they are currently not a member of. The Russian Federation will support any resolution that maintains and preserve the undeniable right to sovereignty that every member nation is bestowed, that any nation is allowed to do what is just to protect its people.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

60 billion a year. That is the dollar amount of the global arms trafficking network. Trading of illicit arms is one of the most prevalent issues in today’s society, for illicit arms trading has plagued almost every member state. It has precipitated the rise of gang and terrorist organizations world wide, it has only grown the number of people who seek to inflict harm upon innocent civilians and governments. The Russian Federation has been one of the strongest voices on the matter. In May 2018, The Russian Federation has been part of the NATO-Russia Council, in hopes to better the corporation and joint action between the two powers, as well as generate peace and prosperity by cooperating together to combat the bilateral, global epidemic which is illegal arms trading.

The United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has been one of the most prevalent steps in combating the threat that illicit arms pose, around the world, but the Russian Federation believes that there are a lot of steps that need to be taken in order to turn the $60 billion dollars of illicit arms trading to zero. UNODA has been somewhat successful in combating illicit arms trade by monitoring and reporting some arms dealings to keep track and ensure they do not end up in the wrong hands. The Russian Federation believes that the reason that UNODA has not been very effective is in primarily poorer member states because they lack not only the resources but the fiscal infrastructure and management capabilities to regulate their firearms, as well as the larger countries who chose to omit their arm dealings in fear that it will spark global contravisory. The Russian Federation would support resolutions that would increase not only surveillance, as proposed in UN Resolution 70/49, but enhance monitoring and reporting of global firearms dealings in order to combat this issue entirely, because there are some issues that transcend national boundaries. A global community has to unite and rally around together, rather than isolate themselves due to fear and uncertainty.
Delegation from: South Korea
Represented by: Bay High School

Today, the topics to be addressed are in regards to the occupation of Ukraine and illicit arms deals throughout the world. South Korea is determine to come to a solution as to how to handle these difficult situations.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

Though South Korea has had little communication with Ukraine thus far, we still find that the situation occurring in Ukraine is quite questionable. In the past, we have had on and off issues regarding Russia itself, but relations have been relatively stable and diplomatic as of recent years. We stand fairly neutral currently in regards to the individual countries, but do not look favorably upon the situation itself.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

South Korea has some restrictions on the ownership of guns, but allows them in some cases. We find that the major concern is to the north in North Korea. Though it does not directly involve us, we find it unnerving that North Korea is involved in the illegal trading of guns. We believe that these issues could possibly endanger our country, as our relations have been on unsteady ground and we are constantly required to guard the border. We would hope to discontinue these deals in order to protect ourselves from the possible threats posed by North Korea. Overall, though we have little issues in our country, our close neighbors pose a possible threat to our wellbeing, especially considering the current risks we are already at being so close to this country.

In summary, South Korea hopes to come to a resolution involving Ukraine and possibly understand more about the situation, and additionally strives to lock down illicit arms trade within our neighboring country, North Korea. We hope a solution to these large issues can be formed.
Delegation for: The Kingdom of Spain  
Represented by: Solon High School  
Committee: General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

Position Paper for General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues presented before the General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The Kingdom of Spain is committed to the safety and well being of its people and finding solutions that are beneficial to moving towards world peace.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine are constantly rising due to the annexing of the Crimean Peninsula. Following the end of the Cold War, Ukraine declared independence from Russia. This, however, resulted in conflicts regarding certain territories including the Crimean Peninsula. Since the conflict has emerged, it has lead to 1.6 million citizens becoming Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). UN Resolution 68/262 was put in place to condemn The Federation of Russia for their violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine; later reinstated with UN Resolution 71/205. Although Ukraine has attempted various methods to combat the aggression from Russia, none have been successful. The agreement that has been most successful is the trade pact signed between Ukraine and the European Union; which bolstered their alliances. However, Russia quickly responded by reinforcing the consequences that Ukraine could be faced with. This conflict needs to be resolved immediately.

The Kingdom of Spain formally developed diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation in 1997. This, in turn, has caused slight tension with NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Regarding the issue with Ukraine, there is a divide within the views. People believe the EU has made mistakes during this conflict, but the difference lies whether they are pro-European and intervening with Russia, or if they believe in the sovereignty of Ukraine. These differing views emphasize the neutral stance Spain has due to the spectrum of ideas. The Kingdom of Spain wants to reach a consensus on this disagreement and find a solution that will not only benefit the countries of Russia and Ukraine but the United Nations as a whole.

Although Spain remains a neutral country regarding this issue and believes this conflict needs to come to an end. The Kingdom of Spain is aware and respectful of the views and actions of the Russian Federation, but also feels Ukraine deserves liberty as well. Being aggressive or hostile towards Ukraine will not benefit anyone; it will, however, lengthen the time of this dispute. Finding peace within Russia should be found through civility and diplomacy, rather than war and violence. In the near future, the Kingdom of Spain hopes to resolve the conflict at hand by giving the citizens of Ukraine the sovereignty to chose their freedom through a committee.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The trading of illicit arms has been a very prominent topic in the global society that has caused many problems to surface. It has produced a multitude of violence, suffering, and repression for many citizens. The United Nations has tried to combat this issue multiple times by creating different treaties and organizations. One treaty, in particular, being the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), can track 90% of the arms trade. Although that number is extremely high, 10% of the weaponry trade remains unaccounted for. This is because some countries lack the required infrastructure and experience needed to track such a complex system. Reaching an end to this conflict will not be easy since the trading of illicit arms is a lucrative business. Regardless, actions need to be taken to prevent this issue from growing.

The Kingdom of Spain recognizes their position as one of the largest arms traders in the world and knows that precautions need to be taken. Being an active figure in the importing and exporting of weapons, restrictions are required to maintain the stability and safety of the nation. Spain is committed to maintaining a multilateral position on the subject of the illicit arms trade. The bearing of arms throughout Spain is highly restrictive; it is considered a privilege to own a weapon, not a right. With that being said, there are many laws put in place to maintain the well-being and protection of citizens such as individuals are not permitted to carry automatic weapons and a person must have a license to possess a firearm. Spain has many regulations concerning the imports and exports of armed weapons. Regarding the Arms Trade Treaty, Spain has signed and ratified the treaty which further shows the view taken on this topic.

Regardless of Spain's strong restrictions regarding armed weapons, further action needs to be taken. Communication is a huge barrier regarding the trading of these armed weapons; if countries can enhance communications with other nations by being more transparent with trade agreements, there will be less confusion involving the trade. Also, by improving the infrastructure and expertise of other countries through technological advances, a solution can be reached soon. Although this subject is involved, a solution can be found through negotiation. The trading of illicit arms has proven to be very dangerous and expensive in many countries; others view it as a significant source of income within their nation. By finding a solution that is beneficial to countries with a weaker economic system, the incentive to sell these weapons will decrease. The Kingdom of Spain hopes to find a solution that will ensure the safety of others, while also maintaining the economic aspect this trade brings.
Introduction:
The issues before the General Assembly are: Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine and Preventing the Illicit Arms Trade. Thailand is devoted to maintaining peace and combating arms trafficking.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

In 2014, Russia made multiple military incursions into Ukrainian territory. Russian soldiers, lacking proper insignia, took control of strategic positions and infrastructure within the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. Russia then followed this action by annexing Crimea. Following this, pro-Russian groups in Donbass escalated into armed conflict with the Ukrainian government. Shortly after Russian military vehicles crossed the border in several locations of Donetsk Oblast and Russian MLRS systems have had the border between Russia and Ukraine under constant shelling. Not to mention that Russian paratroopers have been involved in countless skirmishes with the Ukrainian armed forces. As of November 2018, this conflict has resulted in 2,423 killed, 6,820 wounded, 378 missing, 2,768 captured, and 15,000 defected to Russia.

Thailand will always promote peace among nations. As result, Thailand condemns the military occupation of Ukraine. We urge the Russian occupation force to leave Ukraine and to stop backing the separatist forces. Russian involvement in this conflict has increased dramatically since 2014. Russia has continued to incite violence in the region and will only continue to increase their presence in the conflict unless actions are take. Thailand urges an end to this bloody conflict and hopes for peaceful coexistence between all parties involved in the conflict.

This conflict has resulted in the death of 2,423 and 6,820 more wounded. This number is only projected to rise and that is why Thailand urges for the conflict to be ended in the near future. Thailand believes that in order for this bloody conflict to come to an end Russian forces must completely withdraw from the region. In addition to having a UN peacekeeper force deployed in the region until tensions dissolve or an agreement can be made. This solution would promote order and stability, but would also end Russian involvement in the conflict.

II. Preventing the Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit arms trade occurs in all parts of the globe. However it is concentrated in areas where the demand for small arms and light weapons is often high. Arms trafficking fuels regional conflicts; stocks the arsenals of terrorists, drug cartels, and other armed groups; and contributes to violent crime. However monitoring the flow of weapons proves to be highly difficult, as many of the weapons may have legitimate use among government or civilian entities. In addition the sources from which these weapons are obtained are difficult to monitor. In the hands of terrorists and criminals, these weapons have the capacity to kill dozens, even hundreds, of innocent civilians.

Thailand believes that more effective measures need to be taken in order to prevent the illicit arms trade. Thailand has been a hotspot for the illicit arms trade due to the crime rate and access to neighboring Asian countries. We urge international cooperation in order to prevent this problem.

In order to counter illicit arms trade we need to take many different measures. Thailand believes through international cooperation and international information exchange; security measures, legislation, and data collection we can hopefully get the upper edge on criminals and terrorists involved in the illicit arms trade. However, this can only be achieved through collecting data and monitoring the problem. To prevent illicit trafficking we must first identify trends and patterns in illegal arms trafficking and analyze seized weapons in order to identify the source. Which in turn would prevent the flow of illicit arms.
Works Cited


Delegation from: Turkey
Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security

The issues before the General Assembly are: the Addressing of the Occupation of Ukraine and the Prevention of Illicit Arms Trade. The nation of Turkey expresses its hopes to work out a peaceful and lasting compromise between the two opposing peoples, and expresses its hopes for the slowing and ultimate stopping of all illegal arms trade where the issue is most pressing in the world by new methods produced in this committee.

I. Addressing the Occupation of Ukraine

While the primary focus of this committee is the issues that have risen between the states of the Russian Federation and Ukraine within the past half-decade, the power strife between the two states dates back almost a century. In 1917, the Russian state of Ukraine declared itself an independent state within the structure of what was a federal Russian, and a year later in 1918, declared its complete independence. This independence was short-lived, though, as it would succumb to the powers of the new Union of Soviet Social Republics (USSR) and becoming one of the original member-territories. From there, Ukraine would not regain their total independence until the collapse of the USSR in 1991. Relations between the two states remained stable, until the crossing of Russian soldiers over the border of Ukraine and the illegal annexation of the Crimean territory which resulted in today’s dispute.

Turkey, being a neighbor of the Russian Federation and sharing a large body of water with Ukraine, finds this issue very pressing to due to how close we are to this conflict. If a conflict did escalate, there is a very strong chance that Turkey would have some level of involvement. Turkey has taken a safe approach in remaining most neutral in the issue, never verbally accepting the annexation of Crimea by Russia but maintaining their friendship through that. Turkey has a strong trade relationship set up with Russia, and depends on them for most of their needs concerning fuel, but at the same time understands the need for Crimea as a religious territory.

Turkey expresses its hopes that this conflict does not escalate to the point of further violence from either side. In order to do this, Turkey is suggesting a plan to appease both sides, that would be as fair as possible in all respects. Turkey understands the concerns and desires of both sides, and knows that taking any other path than some sort of appeasement between the two states would only result in further conflict. We have come up with a multi-step plan that involves the separation of the Crimean territory, and that always allows states that desire to use it for religious purposes. The goal is to build a temporary, peaceful solution, that will stand until there are further plans created by as many contributors as possible to create a peaceful, long-standing solution between the two areas.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The issue of illicit arms trade creates a further impact globally every day as technology continues to progress. Millions have been subject to violence spurred from this issue around the world, especially those who lack the ability to defend themselves or respond to this violence, which is why this issue must be handled. These victims should not have to live every day under threat of violence, and the stopping of this will help that greatly. A solution to this issue would cut down on global terrorism, organized crime, and civil revolts around the world. This issue has pressed the world for too long, and it is time to stop it.

Turkey has witnessed a bitter past when it comes to the effects of illicit small and light arms trade. The Kurdish rebellions happening in the last century have been (in part) a result of this issue, as well as smaller political revolts happening within the 1970s. These have both been a partial result of small arms being moved illegally around the nation of Turkey and its surrounding areas. Kurdish insurgent groups have fought for an independent Kurdistan, the insurgency being fueled by illicit trade of small and light arms. There are nearly forty-thousand known fatalities in total from this conflict alone, and it has costed the Turkish military nearly four-hundred billion dollars.

A solution to this issue is far more than just pressing. The more time that passes, the more citizens of the world fall victim to this issue. History has shown that there is not a singular, step-by-step plan that can be used to combat this issue, but rather a multi-faceted, adaptable plan that could be used to both fight current criminal organizations and eliminate the possibility of new ones, as well as eradicate the sources of the weapons being trafficked. Many different courses of action could be taken to do this, and Turkey believes that the goal of this committee should be to find the most effective and all-encompassing way to go about doing this as a global committee. Turkey has developed a plan surrounding these areas of necessity, and has hopes of greatly improving it in committee.
Delegation From: St. Edward High School  
Representing: Uganda

General Assembly Committee 1 (Disarmament and International Security)

I. Occupation of Ukraine

In 2014, Russia occupied Crimea which is a part of Ukraine. Since Russia did this, numerous amounts of people have been affected. Around 10,090 people have been killed, 2,777 were civilians of Crimea and over 23,000 people have been injured. Not only have a lot people been killed or injured but many people who were living in Ukraine have become Internally Displaced Persons. The United Nations has been very clear that they do not approve of the Russian occupation of Crimea, but Russia has ignored their stance. The United Nations had imposed sanctions on Russia to push them into cooperation, but this has had little effect. Russia claims that they had an election where the people in the Republic of Crimea voted to be apart of Russia. The United Nations does not acknowledge that claim. Also, Russia claims that they had no military occupation in Ukraine, however, satellite footage provided by NATO suggests otherwise. Ukraine has tried to stand up to Russian control by turning to the European Union. Ukraine has been pushing to join the European Union to help protect themselves from Russia. Many Internally Displaced Persons have been reporting abuses from Russian forces. The International Organization for Migration has worked with the government of Ukraine to help IDPs. Both the organization and the government of Ukraine have given seminars and grants to help these displaced people learn job skills so they will be able to support themselves. Although this had helped IDPs, they are still in need of help.

This topic relates to Uganda because Russia and Uganda have made agreements in the past with one another. In 1964 Uganda and the Soviet Union signed a trade agreement where Russia gave Uganda a 14 million rubles loan. Later in 2010 Russia gave Uganda goods worth around 19.3 million dollars. The money and resources provided by Russia have contributed to Uganda being able to grow its economy. Uganda when given the opportunity to vote in the United Nations for a resolution that would not acknowledge the 2014 Crimean referendum as valid; Uganda abstained from voting for or against the resolution. Therefore, Uganda has turned to Russia in the past for support but chose not to show support or disapproval of them in the United Nations.

Uganda would like for Russia to be left alone. There was a lot of controversy about the legitimacy of the Referendum, but there is not way for sure to know its legitimacy. There are a lot of Internally Displaced Persons because of this annexation, Uganda would like to continue to see UN policies that help them. Uganda has sympathy for them as a country because Uganda is a poor developing country that has often needed aid in terms of resources. If the people can be helped then Uganda does not see the need to have disagreements with Russia on whether they should be in Ukraine or not.
II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

Illicit sale of weaponry is an enormous for profit business in the world. The amounts of weapons in the hands of individuals today has contributed to suffering, political repression, and crimes rates. $85.3 billion dollars worth of weaponry is sold worldwide. The United Nations has made numerous attempts to solve this issue of the selling of weaponry with the United Nations of Disarmament Affairs and Arms Trade Treaty. These organizations make efforts to make transparent the sale of weapons worldwide. The reason that this organization has not been able to be as successful as it potentially could be is some countries do not have the proper equipment to have the best tracking systems. Gun Buyers have even turned to the internet to buy weapons which has sold millions of weapons. Since the world has not put forth a united way to stop the sale of firearms online individual governments efforts have not been effective. The money in all of this has prevented countries from coming together and figuring out a way to fix this problem.

Uganda has strict gun control policies. They have background checks where they check into criminal record to see eligibility for gun ownership. They have a license to own a gun that has to be renewed. The amounts of guns and ammunition have to be registered. There are penalties that give court's authority to take guns away from gun owners. All of this falls under the Firearms Act of 1970. In 2014 Uganda started to supply weapons for South Sudan for the purpose of security. Uganda deals with terrorism from the “Lord’s Resistance Army” a militant religious cult which has the goal of overthrowing the Ugandan government. In 1993 the United Nations had sent peacekeepers to the border of Uganda and Rwanda to see if military assistance was being given across the border.

Uganda would like for The United Nations to be transparent about gun sales in each of our countries. If each country was open about guns sales then world leaders would have a better idea about the amounts of guns. We allow would like countries to adopt stricter penalties for people who make or sell guns illegally because we do not want the result of countries loose guns laws to come into Uganda.
Delegation from: United Kingdom
Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position paper for the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and International Security (GA1 DISEC)

The issues before the General Assembly, First Committee, Disarmament and international Security are: Addressing the occupation of Ukraine and preventing Illicit Arms Trade. The United Kingdom supports Ukraine and efforts towards preventing Illicit Arms Trade.

Addressing the occupation of Ukraine

The occupation of Ukraine has been constantly challenged since 2014. This conflict arose when Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine. When Russia annexed Crimea they infringed upon Ukraine's national Sovereignty. Russia has made many claims stating that a referendum was held in 2014. The United nations, as stated in Resolution 68/262 does not acknowledge the referendum because at the time Crimea was under Russian control. This conflict intensified when Russia placed military presence in Crimea. Since this dispute, there has been several casualties. Due to the violence and corruption millions of people have been internally displaced. Over time, this conflict has become an international affair. Many countries have gotten involved, to show their support for Ukraine. They have shown their support by forming trade agreements, and sending financial aid.

The United Kingdom, along other countries in Europe have shown their support for Ukraine in many different ways. The UK has very close ties with Ukraine and there are regular bilateral visits between the 2 nations. The united kingdom has expressed its support in ukraine becoming a member of the EU and Nato. The UK has also been working with Ukraine to beat international crime and threats to international security as as a whole. The united kingdom and ukraine have been trading partners for quite some time now. We have also shown our support through organizations that gives children and their parents a safe place to stay. This organization has repaired hundreds of homes and provided the basic needs such as drinking water and hygiene kits. We urge other willing nations to help as much as possible because Ukraine is in desperate need.

Overall, the united kingdom supports the territorial integrity of ukraine and also supports their effort in getting back crimea. We believe that russia broke the law and that the referendum held in 2014 shouldn't be acknowledged. In this committee we hope to establish a system where Russia and Ukraine can meet and discuss their issues with a third unbiased party. We believe that a new legal referendum should be held so that the people can have the power to choose. Violence
isn't the key and we should try and combat this peacefully. Communication is crucial in combatting this conflict.

II. Preventing Illicit Arms Trade

The only thing that illicit Arms trade cause is corruption and violence. Illicit Arms Trade has been around for many decades and its industry is rapidly increasing. These weapons kills millions of people each year. The problem is how cheap and easy it is to get these weapons. These firearms tend to fall into the wrong hands, such as terrorists. Most of the weapons that terrorist use are obtained through the illicit Arms trade. If we don't put a stop to this and crack down on this process, our nations will continue to suffer drastically.

The United Kingdom supports efforts towards combating this issue. The Uk has taken different initiatives to try and combat this. The Uk is slowing but surely trying to limit illicit Arms trade in the nation. The UK has aligned itself in the past along other nations to try and combat this pressing issue. The Uk even took the initiative to partner with local Ngos so that they could make the public aware and try to influence their people to stop engaging in illicit arms trade. We are strong supporters of the Arms Trade Treaty as the primary way to achieve a better regulated, legal weapons trade. The UK also offers technical expertise and financial assistance to states looking to develop their export control systems. We will continue to try and limit the presence of illicit Arms trade but a global effort is needed to combat this issue.

This is a multi-facetted issue that requires both long term and short term solutions. There is no single solution to this issue, for the prevention of illicit Arms Trade, a lot is required. Arms control is a means of addressing a major and enduring global social problem, which is arms proliferation. Arms control involves a variety of efforts to ban the development, stockpiling, proliferation, and use of these weapons. The united kingdom believes that there needs to be transparency at the borders and a better developed tracking system. If we can find out where and how these weapons come about, then we can start working towards preventing it.