Committee: PBC
Topic 1: Combating Illicit Arms Trade In Post-Conflict Regions
Topic 2: Post-War Restoration in Conflict-Affected Countries

Welcome to THSMUN delegates!

At THSMUN, the formula to win is:

1. Participate enthusiastically and actively in ALL aspects of the committee.
2. Work collaboratively with other delegates - collaborate over dominate!
3. Offer creative, on-policy solutions and describe how they will be implemented in the real world.

Information about Papers

- Single spaced
- 2 pgs max not including works cited
- 12 Font Times New Roman
- 1 inch borders

Committee Description

Welcome delegates and advisors to THSMUN, here we focus on substantive debate, we look forward to hearing your solutions from the beginning of the committee session! Our theme for this conference is "Navigating a New World." The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) dedicates their work towards establishing sustainable peace, and drifting away from potential conflicts. PBC consistently advocates for peace, through providing financial aid for nations willing to invest into peacebuilding operations. In a PBC committee session solutions should reflect peacebuilding based operations, dedicated towards advancing in peace and loosening global tensions.

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Background

Illicit arm trade is the illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons. In post-conflict areas, some leftover weapons often fall into the hands of militias, gangs and criminal groups which can reduce the peace as these organizations gain power the more weapons they have. Usually leading to violence, instabilly and leads into conflict .There isn't a date of when it started but we can say it became a crisis in the 1900s during and after conflicts in Africa. Despite international treaties like the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013, the illicit arms trade remains widespread. We see no progress as some countries have corruption and weak border control making enforcement difficult. Recent conflicts in Syria, Libya, Yemen, and the Sahel have worsened the problem as the spread of weapons across entire regions. The regions that have mostly been affected are Africa and the Middle East. We can also see weapons on the black markets undermine peacebuilding by aiming insurgents and criminals. Even after peace agreements this Weapons still circulate throughout prevents societies from fully stabilizing. It is still a huge problem since we see weak governance, corruption in post-conflict states, poor disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR programs) There is also a global deemed for illegal arms for groups such as terrosim and organized crimes there is also limited resource for border control and tracking of arms. This does not only affect the peace building but civilizations for increasing violence , regional neighbors, and international peacekeepers and humanitarian groups, who operate in unsafe environments.

The main areas affected are Africa(Great Lakes Region, Sahea, Horn of Africa), Middle East (Yemen, Syria, Iraq) , Latin America(Flow of illicit arms from the U.S. to gangs and black

market). There have been attempts to solve this problem in 1991, 2001, 2013 which have all been UN attempts to bring this peace. However, there will be regional disarmament programs in Africa and Latin America. Some quick facts can be around 1 billion small arms are in circulation globally; 85% in civilian hands. Up to 50-60% of illicit arms in Africa come from poorly secured government stockpiles.The world bank has stated, Contours affected by illicit arms trade are 42% more likely to relapse into conflict.

UN Involvement

It came to the attention of the UN in the 1990s during the devastating civil wars in West Africa and the Balkans. These conflicts showed the UN how uncontrolled small arms fueled mass atrocities. The following year in 1991, the UN created the Register of Convention Arms to track state by state weapons transferring. By 1997 the UN general assembly officially recognized the serious threat to peace and security. In 2001, the UN held a Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which produced the UN Programme of Action (PoA) which was the first global framework to try to fight off the crisis. The UN has tried to pass laws starting from 1991 UN established the register of Conventional Arms, this law has been labeled successful. The UN had a different solution in 2001 UN Programme of actions on small arms and light weapons, it has been labeled a limited success. IT doesn't end with those two but the UN also passed an Arms trade treaty(ATT) adopted by the UN general Assembly and it was labeled as successful. There are lots of Organs Involved in Combating Illicit Arms Trade. The following has been involved; UN Security Council (UNSC), UN General Assembly (UNGA), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN

Office on Drugs and Crime(UNODC), and of course we have UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) is a specific NGO which helps combat, another example could be Mines Advisory Group (MAG), we also have ITF Enhancing Human Security.

Regional Groups of Member States

African Group: Many countries in Africa see the illicit arms trade as a treaty causing instability, conflict, and underdevelopment across the continent. The African nations have stated that they need stronger cooperation and internal support to control the flow of small arms and light weapons. There is strong support for reduction programs and security sectors, with a focus on addressing problems causing conflict, such as poverty and weak governance.

Asia-Pacific Group: Countries in these regions have prioritized state sovereignty and noninterference but still believe the threat illicit arms pose to regional security and development. There is some caution of support for intonation arms control agreement, concerts over national security and defense needs. Many states advocate cooperation, they often stress the impotence of illicit arms trade. This is because they are a concern of challenges such as terrosim and transnational crime.

Eastern European Group: Eastern European countries generally take a strong stance on combating illicit arms trade, linking it to regional stability and efforts to prevent organized crime and terroism. Many support stringent controls and transparency measures, given the legacy of arms proliferation from post-solveit stockpiles. The push for enhanced international cooperation,

intelligence sharing, and stretching of legal frameworks to disrupt tracking networks. They work a lot with the European Union.

Latin America and Caribbean Group(GRULAC):GRULAC view illicit arms as a key factor leading to violence, crime and gang activities mostly in urban centers. Most GRULAC support teamwork efforts as they aim to rescue arms trafficking and improve border security.

. There is a broad backing for international instruments like the ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT) and regional cooperation mechanisms. Many have chosen to integrate combine arms control with social programs to address violence prevention and community resilience

Western European and Other Group(WEOG): WEOG highly emphasizes the importance of a robust international legal framework. They also want to enforce mechanisms to combat illicit arms trade globally. They advocate for transparent arms tracing and strict expert controls, often linking arms trade regulation with human rights and conflicts prevention. WOEG member support by providing technical assistance to post-conflict states and promoting disarmament initiatives through international organizations. They address the need for highlighting challenges such as arms trafficking via digital means and non-state actors.

Solution Format:

Make sure your solutions are reasonable and detailed, but at the same time should be creative and out of the box. We want to hear solutions that haven't been stated before, and with the use of different NGOs, UN Organs, and other organizations, you can make that happen. Keep in mind your country policy, but also other countries as well. Your solution needs to address most of the countries in your committee and should be all encompassing.

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Questions to Consider:

1. Why do existing international agreements struggle to fully stop the flow of illicit arms into post-conflict regions?
    a. What limitations are in enforcements, in rural or weak governed areas?
    b. Is your country facing problems with implementing? If yes, why?
2. How does illicit arms trade affect different groups within your country or around?
    a. Which group has a bigger problem than others?
    b. Are any non-state actors or militias exploiting these divisions?
3. What role does criminal groups or unsystematic networks (Arms smugglers, rebel groups, etc) have in making the arms trade in your region?
    a. Are these groups supported by anyone (Government, Military) or which people try to fight against these groups?
4. Has your country done anything to improve border security, controls, and arm tracing mechanics to combat illicit weapon flows?
    a. Have they been successful? Why or Why not?
    b. Do you need more international or regional support?
5. Can trust be implemented and cooperation by neighboring countries be helpful to combat arm trafficking in borders?
    a. Are there any existing regional initiatives that your country is a part of ?
6. In various locations in post-conflict states, disarmament programs often fail to collect all of the illegal weapons. Why do these regions decide to keep all their weapons?

a. Maybe it's fear, insecurity, lack of trust in its state, or cultural reasons?

b. How can you change this mindset?

7. Developed countries often are the ones who manufacture arms and export them. However, what responsibilities do these countries have in preventing their weapons from entering the illicit market?

a. Can transparency and accountability be increased in arms sales?

b. Should strict measures be placed on exporting to unstable and post-conflict areas?

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Topic 2 :Post-War Restoration in Conflict-Affected Countries

Background

This issue centers on helping countries from post-conflict, to establish or change their constitution. It is important for fostering nations reconciliation, promoting inclusive governance, and trying to prevent violence. This problem gained attention particularly due to the end of the cold war. The international community recognized the importance of constitutional drafts in post-conflict recovery. In recent years the international community has tried to engage in supporting constitution building in conflict affected countries. Many Organizations like UN and International IDEA, have been helping with technical assistance, facilitating inclusive dialogues and tried promoting the incorporation of human rights and democratic principles into their new constitutions. However there are challenges including ensuring national ownership, having the correct balance of external influence and addressing the diverse needs of fragmented societies.

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Recently multiple countries are undergoing a new constitution building process with the help of varying degrees of international support.

This highlights the critical role of local actors in shaping constitutional frameworks amidst external assistance. This challenge persists due to several factors such as Complexity of conflicts, weak institutions, external influence and security concerns. The citizens, Government Institutions and international organizations have been affected by this problem. This problem is taking place in Africa (countries like Sudan , Central African republic and Somalia), Asia (Afghanistan's post- Taliban constitution), and in the Middle East(Yemen's prolonged conflict has been delayed). There have been efforts to solve problems like in the 1990s, Post-Cold War era where we saw increased international involvement in constitution-building. 2001 The Bonn Agreement laid the groundwork for Afghanistan's new constitution. 2009 UN Security Council. Resolution 1886 extended support for constitutional reform in Sierra Leone. Most recently in 2023-2025 initiatives focused on integrating local governance into the condition-building process in Yemen and Somalia.

<u>UN Involvement</u>

The UN's involvement in conditions-building gained prominence in the early 1990s. In 1992, the UN defined a peace building as "actions to solidify peace and avoid relapse into conflict", which encompasses supporting the constitution making process in areas of post-conflict. These moments support the shift into recognizing the role of the inclusive governance framework in sustaining peace. The UN's response has been involving Technical assistance, facilitating dialogue, capacity building and monitoring and supporting. The UN's first significant engagement was in the 1990s, in countries like Cambodia and Mozambique. In Cambodia, the

UN transitional authority(UNTAC) made the drafting of new constitutional monarchy and democratic governance structures. However as the princess faced a challenge, it helped to lay the groundwork for Cambodia's post-conflict recovery. The UN has passed several resolutions mostly emphasizing the importance of inclusive governance and conditional framework. The Security Council Resolutions resolution highlights the need for including political process and constitutional reforms in smaller countries like Sudan and somila. General Assembly Resolutions, these have highlighted the role of constitutional assistance in peacebuilding efforts. While both resolutions have provided a normative framework, the success of their implementation varies. There are several NGOs and international organizations, International IDEA, the Carter Center, and The International Crisis Group.

Regional Groups of Member States

African Group:

The African nations support international assistance in consituions-builiding, but they stress that such process must respect nations ownerships and not impos”Western Models".Many african nations have experienced conflicts or political transcriptions often seeking capacity-building, technical expertise and financial support but remain wary of external interference. They are supportive of the involvement of the UN, especially through the partnership of the African Union.

Asia-Pacific Group:

The Asian-Pacific group has more diverse opinions , from strong democracies to fragile post-conflict states. The stance emphasizes state sovereignty and non-interference in domestic

affairs. Like in some countries like Afghanistan, Nepal and Myanmar have dealt with major constitutional changes and transitions. They want support in buying inclusive governance but often resisted heavy-handed external involvement.

Eastern European Group:

It's very crucial for eastern European states to implement the rule of law. In addition these states want to include democratic governance and constitutional safeguards. They recognize the importance of conditions building, this is a result of the post- Soviet transitions and benefited from international support themselves.

Latina America and Caribbean Group(GRULAC):

GRULAC countries often value inclusive democracy, social justice, and human rights in the constitution building. Many have a past of their own histories of authoritarianism and constitutional reform. They see conditions-building as a tool for addressing inequality and protecting marginalized groups, especially indigenous people and women.

Western European and Others Group (WEOG):

WEOG states strongly democracy, rule of law and human rights in conditions-building . They often provide financial support, mediation expertise, and technical advisors to constitution-making processes. They also advocate for gender equality and minority inclusion.

Solution Format:

Make sure your solutions are reasonable and detailed, but at the same time should be creative and out of the box. We want to hear solutions that haven't been stated before, and with the use of different NGOs, UN Organs, and other organizations, you can make that happen. Keep in mind

your country policy, but also other countries as well. Your solution needs to address most of the countries in your committee and should be all encompassing.

Questions to Consider:

1. Why have many constitution building processes failed to establish long term peace in conflict areas? What might be the main cause of these failures?
2. How can rural and marginalized communities be fairly represented in the creation of the constitution process compared to higher communities.
3. What role do ethnic and religious people have in the constitution building? How can inclusivity be guaranteed when societies are divided?
4. How can international support not violate national sovereignty while still being effective?
5. What has your country or regional bloc done to support constitutional building in conflict affected areas? Have these efforts been successful?
6. What role should international organizations play compared to nations actors? Should they lead,support or step back?
7. How can constant building help prevent a relapse into conflict and strengthen institutions in the long run? What mechanisms are mostly effective in your view?

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Position Paper Rubric

	Topic Background	**UN/International Involvement**	**Country Policy**	**Possible Solutions**
5 (Advanced)	Demonstrates advanced understanding of topic background through analysis of substantial/relevant information.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of UN/international Involvement demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Advanced synthesis and analysis of country policy demonstrated through excellent use of relevant evidence.	Comprehensive plan presented. Insightful, practical and probable solutions are explained in-depth.
4 (Above Average)	Demonstrates clear understanding of topic background through use of substantial/relevant information.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Some key facts are missing. Might be too lengthy or too short. Could use more analysis.	Insightful, practical and probable solutions are provided.
3 (Average)	Demonstrates understanding of topic background through use of some substantial/relevant	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Information is evident but not enough provided. Mostly descriptive.	Practical and probable solutions are provided, but may be lacking in quantity or quality.

	information. Mostly descriptive in nature.			
2 (Below Average)	Much of the background is unreliable and does not assist the delegate very much. The section is too brief and does not demonstrate understanding.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Only few facts provided; some may be false.	Solutions lack depth and are impractical. May be minimal in amount.
1 (Needs much more Improvement)	The background is way too short (one to two sentences) and information is invalid.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	All facts are incorrect and the section is only about a sentence or two.	The solutions section is only a sentence or two and severely lacks quality/clarity.
0 (Section cannot be found)	No Background present	No UN Involvement present	No Country Policy present	No Solutions present
Totals	**_____/5**	**_____/5**	**_____/10**	**_____/15**