



BJMCMUN25' Study Guide



Committee overview

What is DISEC?

Disarmament and Security Council (DISEC) serves as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, a role it has fulfilled since the UN's inception in 1945. DISEC is supported by two primary bodies: the Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Although the CD operates independently from the UN, it still reports to DISEC and its budget is integrated into the UN's financial framework.

DISEC's mandate encompasses a wide range of critical issues, including nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, outer space, conventional weapons, regional disarmament and security, and broader disarmament measures. This committee concerns itself with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

History of DISEC - The First Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is one of the main six committees from the General Assembly, which meets yearly for 4 to 5 weeks after the General Assembly General Debate. The committee was created in January 24, 1946 as part of Resolution I (1), the very first UN resolution, the committee's first task was to deal with atomic energy, it later turned its attention to improvised terrorist weapons and a wider range of devices that could be used for destruction. It works closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), which was created in January 1952 by the General Assembly's resolution 502 (VI), with the purpose of regulating armament worldwide, especially weapons of mass destruction. The UNDC meets yearly in New York for 3 weeks and reports all of its discussions to DISEC, which later contacts the UN. DISEC is named the First Committee for a reason, the fear of atomic weapons after the war, things haven't changed too much since then, arms of any kind cause terror and discord in our world, hence, making it necessary for regulations of this kind (Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)).

Milestones and Role of DISEC

Among its notable achievements is the adoption of the very first General Assembly resolution, “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy,” in 1946.

A significant milestone for DISEC came in 2001, when it passed the first-ever General Assembly resolution co-sponsored by all Member States at that time. This resolution reaffirmed previous resolutions regarding the situation in Afghanistan and underscored the UN’s vital role in the country. It also called for the creation of a transitional administration to pave the way for a new government.

As a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly, DISEC operates under the authority granted by Article 22 of the UN Charter and holds the responsibilities outlined in Chapter IV, including:

- Article 10: “Making recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.”
- Article 11(2): “Discussing any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it.”
- Article 11(3): “Calling the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security.”
- Article 14: “Recommending measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation...”

Sessions of DISEC take a tripartite structure. First, there is a general debate, wherein the committee decides on the topics to be covered. This is followed by a stage of thematic discussions, and the process is concluded with action on drafts. As enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter, all member states and observers of the UN are permitted to be a member of DISEC. The First Committee may pass resolutions by a simple majority, recommending that member states take specific or general actions. As a General Assembly committee, it does not have the power to pass binding resolutions, nor does it have the power to sanction.

Our aim for this MUN is to emulate DISEC’s above-stated debate structure, powers, and limitations to the best of our ability, so that we may deal with serious threats to international peace and security, just as the delegates in the chambers of the First Committee would.

Treaties and Instruments

In 2001, countries adopted the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA). In the instrument, governments agreed to improve national small arms regulations, to strengthen stockpile management, to ensure that weapons are properly and reliably marked, to improve cooperation in weapons tracing, and to engage in regional and international cooperation and assistance. Within the PoA framework, the General Assembly adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in 2005, a global instrument for cooperation in weapons tracing. Improving weapons tracing is also part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together, both instruments constitute the normative framework on small arms and light weapons, which all UN Member States have agreed upon.

States periodically report on the implementation of the PoA and ITI and review implementation efforts at Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences. Additionally, countries have held Meetings of Governmental Experts (MGE) to benefit from the knowledge of technical specialists on matters pertaining to small arms control.

The global framework of treaties and instruments related to these types of weapons also includes the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty. In addition, there are regional instruments and mechanisms such as regional roadmaps to control and regulate small arms and light weapons.

The United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA), adopted in 2001, remains the cornerstone of global efforts to address the widespread and devastating impact of small arms and light weapons (SALW). It provides a comprehensive framework for national regulation, international cooperation, and capacity-building to combat the illicit trade and misuse of these weapons, which continue to fuel armed violence and instability in many parts of the world.

Since its adoption, the international community has gathered regularly to assess progress and identify gaps in implementation. It has hosted three Review Conferences in 2006, 2012, and 2018, with a fourth expected in 2026. In addition, eight Biennial Meetings of States (BMS) have taken place, the most recent being BMS9 in June 2024 in New York (more information [here](#)). These meetings have helped shape practical guidance, encourage voluntary reporting, and reaffirm the commitment of Member States to the objectives of the PoA. Complementary mechanisms such as the International Tracing Instrument and the recommendations of a Group of Governmental Experts on Brokering Controls.

In Asia and the Pacific, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons has been driven by a range of factors, including unresolved armed conflicts, criminal networks, and porous borders. While regions like South and Southeast Asia continue to face challenges posed by insurgencies, terrorism, and organised crime, certain Pacific Island countries have also experienced cycles of armed violence and insecurity. Though large-scale trafficking is less prevalent in the Pacific, countries such as Fiji, Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands have faced social and economic disruption linked to the misuse of SALW.

Monitoring the implementation of the PoA relies largely on national reports submitted by Member States. As of May 2025, more than 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific have submitted at least one national report since 2001. Australia has demonstrated particular commitment by submitting reports annually. China, Japan, India, and others have also participated consistently, though reporting gaps remain, particularly among smaller or resource-constrained states. These reports provide valuable insights into the progress made on legislative reform, weapons tracing systems, stockpile security, and public awareness efforts.

One of the ongoing challenges in the region is the need for more effective cross-border cooperation, especially in customs enforcement, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building. Regional organizations such as ASEAN, the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), and SAARC play an increasingly important role in fostering collaboration among states and aligning national efforts with international standards. As preparations for BMS9 continue, there is a renewed emphasis on strengthening regional coordination, ensuring universal participation in reporting, and providing technical assistance to those most in need.

In sum, the PoA continues to serve as a critical tool for preventing armed violence and enhancing human security in Asia and the Pacific. Its success depends not only on high-level political commitment but also on sustained action at the national and regional levels. As the global community looks ahead to the next review cycle, the focus must remain on closing implementation gaps and promoting practical, cooperative measures that reduce the illicit flow and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

● The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conferences ,2006

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT:

"Let me note that this Review Conference is not negotiating a "global gun ban", nor do we wish to deny law-abiding citizens their right to bear arms in accordance with their national laws.

Our energy, our emphasis, and our anger is directed against illegal weapons, not legal ones. Our priorities are effective enforcement, better controls and regulation, safer stockpiling, and weapons collection and destruction. Our targets remain unscrupulous arms brokers, corrupt officials, drug trafficking syndicates, criminals and others who bring death and mayhem into our communities, and who ruin lives and destroy in minutes the labour of years. To halt the destructive march of armed conflict and crime, we must stop such purveyors of death.

This is an ambitious--but achievable--goal. The Programme of Action has already provided us with a framework. Now, it is up to all of us, States, international and regional organizations, and civil society participants, to realize its aims."

*Kofi A. Annan
United Nations Secretary-General
to the opening meeting of the Review Conference
26 June 2006*

Officers of the Conference

Nominated Members of the Bureau-[click](#)

List of Participants

List of Participants-[click](#)

Report of the Conference

Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects-[click](#)

- The Conference held a number of informal meetings from 30 June to 7 July 2006, at which it considered and negotiated the draft final document.

- At its informal meeting, on 29 June, the Conference decided to turn a non-paper submitted by the President on 27 June into a working paper of the Conference
- At its 14th meeting, on 7 July, the Conference was not able to agree to conclude a final document. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly by consensus.

Working paper submitted by the President(*Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: a strategy for further implementation*)-[click](#)

At the national level

- To intensify efforts to put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit and retransfer of such weapons and, where they do exist, to urge their strict enforcement in order to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, or their diversion to unauthorized recipients.
- To urge States that have not already done so to take immediate steps to adopt and implement the necessary legislative or other measures to establish as criminal offences under their domestic law the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction, in order to ensure that those engaged in such activities can be prosecuted under appropriate national penal codes. To this effect, States are urged to include provisions in national laws and regulations which enable the investigation, prosecution and punishment of export and import control violations, including violations of Security Council arms embargoes and the illicit use of end-user certificates.
- To encourage States that have not already done so to adopt adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to regulate the possession of small arms and light weapons.
- To improve, where needed, the operational capacity for the enforcement of laws, regulations and administrative measures, including in the areas of import, export, licensing, transit and trans-shipment controls, stockpile management and security, weapons collection and destruction, marking, record-keeping and customs and border controls.

To promptly and fully implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in particular:

- (a) By putting in place, where they do not exist, the laws, regulations and administrative procedures needed to ensure the effective implementation of that Instrument;
- (b) By designating one or more national points of contact to exchange information and act as liaison on all matters relating to the implementation of the Instrument in accordance with their constitutional processes;

(c) By cooperating on a bilateral and, where appropriate, on a regional and international basis to support the effective implementation of the Instrument;

(d) By submitting reports on their implementation of the Instrument to the Secretary-General.

At the regional level

● Welcoming the adoption of instruments such as the Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, the Southern African Development Community Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa and the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Associated Material, to further encourage negotiations, where appropriate, with the aim of concluding relevant legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and, where they already exist, to ratify and fully implement them.

● To take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of existing regional and subregional agreements, including guidelines and standards, as appropriate.

● To strengthen the capacity of regional and subregional organizations, particularly in those regions most affected by cross-border flows of illicit small arms and light weapons, to provide support to States in their efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

At the global level

● Taking note of the 2005 broad-based consultations on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons and recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/86 and 60/81, to encourage the group of governmental experts, which will commence its work in November 2006, to take a practical approach to its work, with a view to making concrete recommendations on further steps that need to be taken within the framework of the United Nations.

● To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake a United Nations study aimed at developing common understandings on basic issues and options related to the establishment of common standards and reliable systems for end-user certification.

● To continue exchanging views on the policies, practices and considerations related to the transfer of small arms and light weapons to actors not authorized by the recipient State, with a view to developing common understandings or measures, taking into account the different contexts and approaches of States.

● Gender and small arms control

Adequate small arms control is essential for reducing conflict, crime and violence. It is a prerequisite for societal stability and sustainable development.

Evidence shows that armed violence impacts women, men, girls and boys differently. Furthermore, the unique, deeply societal characteristics of the small arms issue necessitates a comprehensive mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all dimensions of small arms control. When gender dimensions are not adequately dealt with in legislative and policy frameworks governing small arms control and regulation, the success and effectiveness of interventions are limited.

Although progress has been made, more must be done to strengthen gender elements in small arms control as agreed in global frameworks such as the Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the Arms Trade Treaty. Member States are now also reporting on their efforts to take into account gender considerations when implementing the PoA, including the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

Moreover, in recent years, the small arms control agenda has converged with broader international policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has linked small arms control to the peace, security and development agenda, thereby simultaneously providing an interconnected framework of Goals, which goes beyond the security dimension. Goal 16 on peace, security and strong institutions are specifically relevant to small arms control, but the control and regulation of small arms has implications for the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.

In addition, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration form a strong normative basis for connecting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the small arms control agendas. The launch the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls has further highlighted the need to focus on this issue.

Advancing gender-mainstreaming in small arms control will directly contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Securing weapons and reducing their circulation removes a frequent choice of weapons for domestic and gender-based violence and femicide. Empowering women and breaking down gender stereotypes surrounding weapons will address the root causes of gender-based violence which include patriarchal systems, gender inequitable attitudes and violent aspects of traditional masculinity.

Gender-mainstreaming will also ensure that attitudes towards weapons, and the impact they have on different groups is better understood and consequently better addressed.

UNODA is a member of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and promotes arms control and disarmament efforts within the UN system with the goal to prevent sexual violence in conflict. The latest Secretary-General report (S/2024/292) on sexual violence in conflict calls for examining the links between conflict-related sexual violence and issues related to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

The United Nations has developed a dedicated module on “Women, men and the gendered nature of SALW” as part of its Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC), which provides practical guidance on gender-mainstreaming small arms control based on the best small-arms expertise.

Between 2019 and 2022, UNODA implemented a global project in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda with funding from the European Union. Under the project a training manual on gender-responsive small arms control was developed including an Annex as well as an online course on gender and small arms. The follow-on project that will run until 2025 has a dedicated set of activities that focus on supporting States to strengthen their capacity for gender-responsive SALW control policies and programmes.

●EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition

(Adopted by the European Council on 15-16 December 2005)

(Submitted by Austria on behalf of the European Union)

Introduction

The United Nations Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, adopted on 20 July 2001, reaffirms the need for complementarity at global, regional and national levels in its implementation. By developing a

strategy for combating the accumulation of and illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition, the EU wishes to fall into line with this essential complementarity and to provide a contribution.

Action Plan

"The challenge now is to bring together the different instruments and capabilities: European assistance programmes and the European Development Fund, military and civilian capabilities from Member States and other instruments. All of these can have an impact on our security and on that of third countries. Security is the first condition for development." (ESS).

International

- Promote implementation of the UN Programme of Action (POA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
- Support the adoption of a legally binding international instrument on the tracing and marking of SALW and ammunition.
- Support for 2006 the creation of an experts group on brokering in the framework of the UN Programme of Action (POA).
- Promote ratification of the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms with a view to its rapid entry into force and, at European Union level, adopt a legal instrument on this subject.
- Seek consensus within exporting countries with a view to only supplying small arms to governments (directly or through the intermediary of bodies duly authorised to purchase arms on their behalf), in accordance with restrictive and appropriate regional and international criteria on arms exports.

Regional

- Support regional initiatives to combat the illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition, beginning with those in sub-Saharan Africa, providing financial and technical support for regional and national organisations responsible for implementing the relevant regional instruments (ECOWAS Moratorium, Nairobi Convention and SADC Protocol) and, if appropriate, transforming them into legally binding regional Conventions. The EU will also give priority attention to other regions affected by the proliferation and excessive accumulation of SALW, in particular Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Provide the African Union and African regional organisations with the means to ensure the effective application of United Nations embargos and sanctions regimes (i.e. border controls, in particular at air borders) and mobilise the specialised international organisations (OPCW particularly).
- Support promotion of the OSCE's Handbook of Best Practices on SALW among the EU's partners. Develop and coordinate the capacity of the EU Member States to offer their national expertise in this field to those OSCE countries which request it.

- Support OSCE action to combat the illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition and the destruction of Member States' surplus stocks.
- Support peacekeeping missions in their monitoring of arms embargos.

Within the Union

- Ensure that Joint Action 2002/589/CFSP is implemented.
- Promote implementation by the Member States of the EU's 2003 Common Position on brokerage, and harmonised application of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports.
- Devise mechanisms approved by the Member States for the exchange of information on SALW trafficking networks, in particular in the context of monitoring UN and EU embargos.
- Promote the development, via Europol, Eurodouanes and Eurojust, of a policy for actively combating illicit networks trafficking in SALW (illicit brokers and carriers) using the EU's air, sea and land space, devising alert and cooperation mechanisms and enabling Europewide police operations to be carried out in this field.

References:

Treaties and Instruments

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/small-arms-and-light-weapons>

The United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

<https://www.unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/poa/>

The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons Review Conferences ,2006

<https://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/documents.html>

Gender and small arms control

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/conventional-arms/gender-and-small-arms-control>

EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition

<https://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/pdf/CRP.14.pdf>

*NOTE- click on “-click” to go to the respective reference source

