

National MODEL UNITED NATIONS 4.0

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Agenda: *Deliberation upon the Global Arms Trade and the Usage of Private Military Companies, with Special Emphasis on the U.S. Second Amendment*

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates, Welcome to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Committee for the 4.0 Edition of National Model United Nations.

The executive board of this committee, is pleased to welcome you and we are confident that you are prepared to engage with the intricacies of Model United Nations. I hope to see the committee filled with powerful speeches, complex legalities, and, most importantly, solutions aimed at fostering collaboration and diplomacy.

I hope this background guide provides a thorough introduction to the agenda, but please remember it should not be your only source of preparation. I emphasize the importance of continuing research on the entire agenda, developing solutions, and fully understanding your country's role in it.

As delegates, you are entrusted with the significant responsibility of addressing some of the most urgent global issues, striving to formulate common solutions through rigorous debate and effective communication. The topic at hand is particularly challenging, affecting millions of lives worldwide. It is a complex and deeply rooted issue, and I am here to help you navigate its intricacies.

I look forward to seeing thoughtful arguments, respectful engagement, and most importantly solutions that reflect global responsibility.

Warm Regards,

Executive Board

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COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

- One of the most important UN bodies is the UNGA. All 193 member states are brought together, and every nation—major or minor—is given an equal opportunity.
- To this day and age, there are almost 200 recognized nations scattered what seems like all over the world, all of equal importance due to their sovereignty and political balance. The biggest organ for diplomacy and politics for the UN is the General Assembly. Under the peace and security pillar, the General Assembly has the absolute authority to suggest and deliberate as it wishes over any broken, peaceful relations and what steps to take in suggestion of the development of the world, the HR, global disarmament, and international cooperation. The Assembly also has the power to appoint the Secretary General and the UNSC, of which they are non-permanent. The members are also in charge of providing a budget for the UN, which is one of the greatest expenditures in global cooperation. During the summits, they are allowed to create international policies through their declarations. The resolutions and policies may not be legally binding, but still hold a sufficient amount of political and diplomatic importance. That, in turn, is what made the Assembly one of the greatest international diplomatic centers of the world.

THE MANDATE OF UNGA

- **Deliberative Role** – UNGA is the main forum where all member states discuss global issues with equal voting rights.
- **Recommendations** – It can propose solutions and collective action, though its resolutions are not legally binding.
- **Budgetary Power** – Approves and oversees the UN's budget and financial matters.
- **Elections** – Chooses non-permanent Security Council members and other UN officials.
- **Membership** – Admits new states into the UN (on Security Council's recommendation).
- **Influence** – While lacking enforcement power, its decisions hold strong political and moral weight in global affairs
- Its rulings have a big political, moral, and diplomatic impact that influences state behaviour and guides the work of other UN bodies and specialised agencies, even though they are not legally binding.
- In the United Nations system, the UNGA is also crucial to the election process. In addition to the members of the Economic and Social Council, it also chooses the judges of the International Court of Justice and the non-permanent members of the Security Council. Above all, it selects the Secretary-General based on the Security Council's recommendation.
- The General Assembly provides a special forum for multilateral diplomacy in addition to its legislative and procedural functions. Global norms are discussed there, small states have a voice on par with powerful ones, and reaching an agreement is valued above coercion. In this sense, the UNGA represents the diversity of the global community as well as the common dedication of nations to communication, collaboration, and group problem-solving.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

One of the crucial and compelling issues in the field of global peace and security surrounding the legal position, "Exploration of the Global Arms Trade and the Deployment of Private Military Companies, with Particular Emphasis on the Second Amendment of the United States," is the fact that the spread of arms cross-border and argumentative reliance upon private military corporations (PMCs) have completely overhauled diplomacy and state sovereignty. Arms-exportation policies wreaking the most havoc and alarm in major exporting countries, particularly the U.S., with their Second Amendment, make it impossible for questioned gun control to be less in effect around the world.

Among all the linkages, the trade in arms certainly supplies the most handsomely in the economy, thus wreaking so much havoc to current world peace. Many of the "legal" arms transfers are made under the arguments of defense and security while, at the same time, pouring deadlier illegal trade on killers such as terrorists, criminals, and war-torn regions where life is not being worth the time. The status of private industry in creating political debts between warlords and state security adds to the underside of the maze; indeed, the war has been blurred into greater questions about responsibility, legality, and ethics in today's security.

With this, the agenda calls for Member States to examine both the existing systems governing the arms trade the planet over and the all-encompassing consequences of private security. The agenda argues this will interfere in the disarmament efforts prisoner countries may be party to, which are totally moot due to national legislation, whether further afield or close, in supporting international security while protecting human rights and respecting national sovereignty.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Global Arms Trade

The global arms trade is one of the most lucrative industries, involving the transfer of weapons, ammunition, and military technology between states and private actors. Major powers dominate this market, using arms sales to strengthen alliances and gain political influence. However, the trade often fuels regional conflicts, empowers authoritarian regimes, and undermines peace efforts. While arms exports are justified as tools of security and defense, their misuse in conflict zones raises serious humanitarian and ethical concerns.

Private Military Companies (PMCs)

Private Military Companies (PMCs) have existed since medieval times but declined as modern states centralized control of force. Over the years, mercenaries earned a negative image, especially in Africa where they were tied to oppressive regimes. After the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union fueled the spread of weapons and trained soldiers, which boosted the role of PMCs. Today, they provide training, security, and combat support to states, but remain controversial as they operate mainly for profit rather than national security.

The Second Amendment

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1791, protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Originally framed in the context of maintaining a “well-regulated militia” for national defense, it has since become one of the most debated provisions in American law. Supporters view it as a safeguard of individual freedom and self-defense, while critics argue that its broad interpretation contributes to gun violence. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the amendment as guaranteeing an individual right, but states and the federal government retain authority to regulate firearms within constitutional limits.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGENDA

The significance of this agenda lies in its correlation with international peace, stability, and the protection of human rights. The global arms trade fuels ongoing conflicts in regions such as the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe, often stoking violence and prolonging wars. Ineffective enforcement mechanisms allow illicit weapons to avoid international controls and reach target organizations and armed militias. Hence, it is key to address this matter not only for disarmament purposes but also to save humanitarian purposes and prevent conflicts.

The whole idea of Second Amendment is conceived as a domestic constitutional question, but its significance lies in that the interpretation of the Second Amendment touches even beyond the boundaries of the U.S. Not only it is considered, but it has also been effectuating much on the policies of arms-exercising by the U.S. and its joining in global undertakings like the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). By bringing in this discussion the Second Amendment, the UNGA sets into acknowledgement the interrelationship between municipal law and international security.

To put it somewhat briefly, the agenda is therefore not only timely but also vital. It invites the international community to react to ethical, legal, and political issues arising in arms transfers, privatized warfare, and national sovereignty-a matter of global responsibility and collective action.

The agenda "Deliberation upon the Global Arms Trade and the Usage of Private Military Companies, with Special Emphasis on the U.S. Second Amendment" focuses on the multidisciplinary intersection of arms control, privatized military force, and the very sovereignty of the state in today's world of security.

All over the world, the weapons business is one of the biggest features of the arms trade. Although arms transfer is legal for national defense and security of a state, the illegal trade continues to destabilize certain areas of the world, strengthen non-governmental actors, and worsen humanitarian situations. The ATT (Arms Trade Treaty), adopted and branded in 2013, is still a crucial unfinished piece of global regulation of conventional arms; however, the lack of enforcement and compliance of state members remains the biggest obstacle.

Moreover, the increasing reliance on Private Military Companies (PMCs) has made the distinction between state and non-state actors in war more ambiguous. The scope of PMCs has extended to combat support and training and has even started to cover their own combat and security, yet their status under international law remains ambiguous. The Blackwater incident in Iraq and the Wagner Group in several war zones are examples that border on the violations of human rights, the infringement of sovereignty,

and the commercialization of war. The agenda furthers the emphasis of the United States on the right to “keep and bear arms” as stated in its constitutional Second Amendment. While this is a constitutional issue that is more internal than external, it has external ramifications for the fact that the United States is the largest arms supplier in the world. The cultural, political, and legal halo of the Second Amendment constrains U.S. efforts to ratify treaties such as the ATT and considerably influences more diplomatic efforts on disarmament.

Some Conventions and Treaties

1.Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), 2013

- The first legally binding international agreement regulating the trade in conventional arms.
- Seeks to prevent weapons from reaching terrorists, organized crime groups, and parties committing human rights violations.
- Focuses on transparency, accountability, and responsible arms transfers.
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2. *United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA), 2001*

- A political (non-binding) framework to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- Encourages marking, tracing, stockpile management, and international cooperation.

3. *International Tracing Instrument (ITI), 2005*

- Complements the PoA by establishing standards for tracing small arms and light weapons.
- Helps track illicit weapons across borders.

4. *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1980*

- Regulates or prohibits the use of specific types of weapons considered to cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects.
- Includes protocols on mines, incendiary weapons, and blinding lasers.

5. *Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977, 2005)*

- Core international humanitarian law treaties governing the conduct of armed conflict.
- Indirectly relevant to the agenda, as they set the legal framework for accountability in war, including for non-state actors and PMCs.

6. *Montreux Document, 2008 (Non-binding but significant)*

- A key international initiative addressing the role of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs).
- Provides guidelines on legal obligations of states regarding PMCs and good practices for oversight, accountability, and regulation.

7. *UN Mercenary Convention (International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries), 1989*

- Prohibits the recruitment and use of mercenaries in armed conflict.
- Relevant to PMCs, though its enforcement and ratification remain limited.

8. *Firearms Protocol (UNTOC Protocol), 2001*

- A supplement to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- Aims to control and regulate the manufacturing and trafficking of firearms.

Rules of Procedure

General Rules of Procedure

Rules of procedure refer to the formal conduct delegates are expected to maintain during the conference. It is essential to adhere to the rules and maintain decorum for the smooth flow of the committee.

To begin formal session

How to raise it?

The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to begin the formal session.

Roll call

How to raise it?

The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to begin a roll call. When your allotted country is called upon during the roll call, you have two options: either say “present and voting” or simply say “present”. (Note: If a delegate says “present and voting”, they cannot abstain from voting on the resolution at the end of committee).

General Speaker’s list

The committee generally begins formal debate by starting the ‘GSL’ (General Speaker’s list). It serves the purpose of allowing a delegate to express their stance on the agenda. A GSL is non-exhaustible. How to raise it? The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to establish the general speakers’ list.

Moderated Caucus

This motion can be raised when the committee wants to debate on a specific topic. How to raise it? The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal session/debate and move into a Moderated Caucus on “topic” for a time period of “x” minutes, allotting “x” minutes per speaker. In case a delegate does not get recognized to speak, a delegate can send in their point through substantive chat.

Format of substantive chit:

Substantive chits are written as follows:

To: The Executive Board (may be abbreviated as EB)

From Delegate of: (your allocated country)

Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is proposed when delegates wish to discuss the committee's status among themselves and further evaluate their next actions.

How to raise it?

The delegate of "your allotted country " raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated Caucus for a time period of " x " minutes.

Points

1) Point of Parliamentary Enquiry:

This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee (For example: to know which delegate is speaking next/ if the EB is accepting more speakers)

How to raise it? The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of a parliamentary inquiry.

2) Point of Personal Privilege:

This point is raised by a delegate to address a personal issue. (For example: to ask another delegate to repeat a point they made in their speech/to be excused from the committee)

How to raise it?

The delegate of "your allocated country " raises a point of personal privilege.

3) Point of Order:

This point can be raised by a delegate to point out logical or factual inaccuracies in the speeches of other delegates.

How to raise it?

The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of order, Factual inaccuracy/ Logical Fallacy (either one)

4) Point of Information:

This is raised when a delegate wants to ask questions about another delegate's speech. How to raise it? The delegate of "your allocated country" raises a point of information. If you ask a question and are still not satisfied with the answer, you can raise a follow-up question right after the delegate answers. How to raise it? The delegate of " your allocated country " wants to raise a follow-up question (Note: This point can be denied if the Chairperson feels so).

If a delegate wants to ask a question VIA chit, you can use this format:

POINT OF INFORMATION TO: Delegate of "country you want to question" VIA:
Executive Board

FROM: Delegate of "your allotted country" state the question Working Paper

Draft Resolution

- A draft resolution or resolution contains all the solutions that the committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to a vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.
- Sponsors are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause and amendment. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference. Signatories are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee.
- A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution.
- Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee. An amendment to a resolution is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and, through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session.
- If more than 1/3rd the number of the resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped.
- When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as friendly or unfriendly.

A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added, or deleted is done as such.

An unfriendly amendment means that the committee will vote to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

- *(To introduce Resolution)*
- The delegate of "your allotted country" would like to raise a motion to introduce RESOLUTION NAME
- *(Amendments)* The delegate of "your allotted country" would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for RESOLUTION NAME
- *(To vote on the resolution)*, The delegate of "your allotted country" would like to raise a motion to table the RESOLUTION NAME for the voting procedure.

Research Guide

(Please keep in mind that this is just a suggested pattern, and it is up to you to follow which pattern you would like to do your research).

1. Prerequisite information:

- The United Nations
- Your Committee.
- The Committee's mandate.
- Bodies it works with.
- Funding channels

2. Agenda:

- Historical background
- Current trends
- Future aims
- International legal instruments

3. Within the agenda, cover the following areas:

- Political aspects.
- Economic aspects.
- Social aspects
- Technology and its role.
- Legalities

4. Know your country.

- Historical background, Current trends, Future aims of the agenda from your country's perspective. Political, economic, social, technological, arms and army strength, and legal aspects related to the situation in your nation. (emphasis on high-value resources, crisis, support services, governance, political system and administrative conditions)
- Membership and participation in regional organizations.
- International organizations other than the UN.
- Allies and non-allies (friends and enemies) of your nation.

Nature and Source of Evidence

(Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof in committee)

1. UN resolutions, reports and documentation - all UN documents will be considered as credible sources of proof. Any information from UN websites is also considered. It is important to note that most official UN websites begin with “un.org”.
2. Government reports - government reports of all nations will be considered as credible proof. Some examples of these government websites are:
 - a. The State Department of the United States of America. “<https://www.state.gov/>”.
3. Other sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, or newspapers like the Guardian, and so on, will not be accepted as credible proof, but may be used for a better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government or a delegate

QUARMA Questions

1. Who should be in charge of enforcing more stringent international laws on the arms trade?
2. What steps can be taken to stop the abuse of weapons obtained through legitimate trade, particularly in areas where terrorism and insurgency are prevalent?
3. How much of an impact does the Second Amendment of the United States have on international arms control negotiations?
4. Should governments be held responsible for the conduct of PMCs that operate both inside and outside of their boundaries?
5. How can the UN make sure that arms trade agreements strike a balance between international peacekeeping efforts and national security interests?
6. What part do private military corporations (PMCs) play in contemporary conflicts, and should international law govern their operations?

GOOD LUCK DELEGATES!

