

Committee: United Nations General Assembly

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

Country: Bangladesh

Topic Background

The **global arms trade** is the buying and selling of weapons like guns, tanks, missiles, and aircraft between countries or private groups. Some trade is legal, but much of it happens illegally. Illegal arms often end up in conflict zones, increasing violence, civilian deaths, and instability.

Private Military Companies (PMCs) are private organisations that provide military services, such as security, training, and logistics. PMCs are not part of a country's army and are often **not fully regulated**, which can lead to violations of international law and harm to civilians.

The **U.S. Second Amendment** guarantees the right to own guns. The United States has one of the **largest civilian arms stockpiles in the world**, and some guns have ended up in illegal markets, fueling conflicts abroad.

For **Bangladesh**, weapons from illegal trade and unregulated PMCs are a serious concern. They threaten peace, put civilians at risk, and create challenges for development projects. Bangladesh also contributes heavily to **UN peacekeeping missions**, where troops often face the dangers of illegal weapons and PMCs.

Past International Action

- **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):** Bangladesh signed the ATT in 2013, supporting international standards to regulate weapons trade and prevent arms from reaching unauthorised users.
- **UN Peacekeeping Contributions:** Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, deploying soldiers to conflict zones like Mali, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These missions face threats from illegal arms and unregulated PMCs.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Bangladesh collaborates with neighbouring countries to monitor and prevent cross-border arms smuggling.
- **Support for UN Resolutions:** Bangladesh votes for and supports UN resolutions promoting arms control, PMC regulation, and international cooperation.

Country Policy

Bangladesh believes that **peace and development are linked**. Illegal weapons and unregulated PMCs increase conflict, harm civilians, and threaten national and regional stability.

Key policies of Bangladesh include:

1. **Stricter Arms Control:** Support for international treaties, such as the ATT, to ensure arms are traded responsibly.

2. **Regulation of PMCs:** PMCs should operate under government supervision and follow human rights laws.
3. **Enhanced Border Security:** Prevent illegal arms from entering or leaving Bangladesh.
4. **Support for Peacekeeping Missions:** Train and equip Bangladeshi troops to handle threats from illegal arms and PMCs.

Resolution / Proposed Actions

Bangladesh proposes the following **immediate, practical, and unique actions**:

1. **Rapid UN Arms Trace Task Force (RATTF):**
 - a. A UN team that immediately tracks suspicious weapons shipments and reports to member states.
 - b. Uses technology like GPS and secure digital tracking to prevent illegal arms from reaching conflict zones.
 - c. Designed for **quick, immediate action**.
2. **Global PMC Licensing & Monitoring System:**
 - a. All PMCs must register with the UN and submit real-time reports of their missions.
 - b. PMCs operating without registration are **immediately blacklisted**, and countries should deny them contracts.
 - c. Ensures accountability and prevents illegal PMC activity.
3. **Conflict Zone Arms Buyback Program:**
 - a. The UN, with countries like Bangladesh, offers incentives to collect illegal small arms from conflict zones.
 - b. Collected weapons are destroyed or safely stored, preventing them from re-entering illegal markets.
 - c. Provides a **fast and direct reduction of weapons** in dangerous areas.
4. **Peacekeeper Protection & Rapid Response Units:**
 - a. Mobile units trained specifically to protect UN peacekeepers in areas with illegal arms or PMC activity.
 - b. Includes emergency equipment and rapid deployment to protect troops immediately.
5. **International Firearms Awareness & Control Campaign:**

- a. Work with countries with large civilian gun stocks, like the U.S., to highlight the international impact of unregulated firearms.
- b. Encourage domestic systems to track and prevent guns from entering illegal markets abroad.

Bangladesh believes that these five actions are **practical, fast, and effective**, and can **immediately reduce risks** from illegal arms and PMCs while improving global peace and security.