



Committee: United Nations General Assembly

Country: Sweden

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

Delegate: Ishika Chandak

Introduction

The delegation of Sweden is honoured to participate in this vital deliberation on the global arms trade, the proliferation of private military companies (PMCs), and the broader implications of national frameworks such as the United States' Second Amendment. Sweden approaches this discussion with deep concern for international peace, human security, and multilateral responsibility. As a country rooted in diplomacy, neutrality, and disarmament advocacy, Sweden believes that unregulated access to weapons and the unchecked rise of PMCs pose serious risks to global stability and civilian safety.

Sweden has been a member of the United Nations since 1946 and is consistently ranked among the world's happiest nations, thanks to its strong social welfare systems, free healthcare, and publicly funded education for citizens. While international students pay tuition, Swedish citizens benefit from free higher education. Sweden's progressive tax system-ranging from 45% to 57% depending on income-funds these services and reflects its commitment to equity and public well-being. These values extend to its global role, where Sweden actively promotes peace, transparency, and humanitarian aid.

Part I: Sweden's Connection to the Issue

Sweden's stance on arms control is defined by strict domestic regulation and strong international cooperation. Unlike the U.S. Second Amendment, which frames firearm ownership as a constitutional right, Sweden treats guns as regulated tools-primarily for hunting and sport-under tight government oversight. Civilian ownership requires police-issued licenses, psychological vetting, and compliance with EU Firearms Directive rules. Following the tragic Orebro mass shooting in February 2025, Sweden moved

to tighten access to semiautomatic weapons and strengthen background checks, reinforcing its public-safety-first approach.

Sweden views the rise of PMCs as a growing threat to international humanitarian law. While some states tolerate or contract PMCs with minimal oversight, Sweden supports robust accountability mechanisms. It is a founding participant of the Montreux Document and a government member of the International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA), which audits private security firms for compliance with human rights and international law.

Sweden's model-strict domestic access, strong multilateral export rules, and multistakeholder PMC oversight-offers a balanced and ethical framework for global arms governance.

Part II: Past Actions and International Engagement

Sweden was among the first countries to sign and ratify the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in 2013, and continues to urge universalization. It blocks arms exports automatically under UN, EU, or OSCE embargoes, and since 2018, applies sharpened human-rights and democracy criteria to all export decisions. Sweden supports UNROCA reporting and uses SIPRI and ISP data to publicly disclose arms transfers, aligning with the EU's high-transparency camp.

Internationally, Sweden funds SALIENT (UNDP/UNODA), which curbs illicit small arms flows and supports conflict prevention. It actively participates in SALW diplomacy, including the 2024 PoA Review Conference, and aligns with NATO and EU sanctions regimes. Sweden's "rules + assistance" model reflects its belief that arms control must be paired with humanitarian aid and development goals.

Sweden also collaborates with like-minded nations-such as Norway, the UK, Switzerland, and Canada-that support Montreux and ICoCA, and maintain strict domestic firearms regimes. In contrast, countries like Russia, where PMCs like Wagner operate despite formal illegality, highlight the urgent need for stronger global norms and enforcement.

Conclusion and Proposed Solution

In light of its commitments and values, Sweden proposes the creation of a **Global Arms Accountability Index** a UN-monitored ranking system that evaluates states based on arms transfer transparency, human rights screening, and PMC accountability. Much like climate indices, this tool would incentivize responsible behavior, empower civil society, and promote international cooperation without confrontation. Sweden believes this index could become a cornerstone of global arms governance, bridging the gap between national sovereignty and collective security.

By offering this solution, Sweden reaffirms its role as a diplomatic bridge-builder and a model of ethical arms policy. It calls upon fellow Member States to join in shaping a future where arms are regulated, PMCs are accountable, and peace is prioritized over profit.