POSITION PAPER

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia | DISEC | FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0

Agenda: Combating the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons

1. Background

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is not simply a matter of illegal sales; it is a problem that can keep conflicts alive, strengthen armed groups and put ordinary communities at risk. When weapons are diverted from legal channels or moved across borders illegally, the effects are felt far beyond the point where the trade began. Ethiopia believes that preventing this problem requires stronger national controls as well as cooperation between countries.

2. International action

The United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001) and the International Tracing Instrument (2005) provide an important basis for national and international action. The General Assembly has continued to address the issue through resolutions including A/RES/78/46 (2023) and A/RES/79/40 (2024), both adopted without a vote. At the regional level, the African Union's Silencing the Guns roadmap, whose implementation period was extended to 2030, connects arms control with long-term peace and development.

3. Country policy

Ethiopia has established a national focal point for small-arms control through the Ethiopia Federal Police. In its national report on implementing the UN Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, Ethiopia identifies the Firearms Administration and Control Proclamation No. 1177/2020 and a 2022 directive as part of its national framework. The report also describes measures such as checking customs documentation, marking imported weapons and keeping transfer records. Ethiopia has also identified a need for further financial and technical support, including training and improved record-keeping capacity. This reflects the importance of making national commitments effective in practice.

4. Proposed solutions

Ethiopia encourages DISEC to:

- Support practical assistance for states that need training, technical equipment and stronger record-keeping systems to implement existing commitments.
- Encourage regular information-sharing between neighbouring states and relevant regional organisations, while respecting national sovereignty and domestic law.
- Strengthen cooperation to prevent diversion by promoting reliable documentation, tracing and follow-up on authorised transfers.
- Support community-based awareness and voluntary collection initiatives, alongside peacebuilding and reintegration efforts, in line with national laws.

Sources: UNODA, Ethiopia National Report on implementation of the Programme of Action and ITI; UN General Assembly resolutions A/RES/78/46 and A/RES/79/40; African Union, Silencing the Guns in Africa roadmap and 2026 Peace and Security Council communiqué.