

THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY (DISEC)



BACKGROUND GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION:
CHAIRS INTRO
COMMITTEE INTRO

AGENDA 1 & 2:

INTRODUCTION

SOLUTIONS

KEY ASPECTS

QARMA





CHAIRS? WHO?

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome you to the GA1, DISEC, at AMUN '25. We are more than excited to welcome all of you to an event that is dedicated to fostering diverse discussions, important and essential debates and helping all of you gain a better understanding of the world and helping you prepare better for a productive committee session. We understand that some of you may be participating in a MUN conference for the first time, and we wish you all the very best. Your presence here means a lot to us all and we are truly pleased to have you here. We assure you that it will be an amazing experience for everyone.

Secondly, we recommend that all necessary research be done before the conference and that all of your content is organised so that you can formulate your responses quickly and efficiently. Remember, research is truly the key to a fruitful debate.

Thirdly, the importance of our collective efforts cannot be emphasised. As we assemble here it is critical that we maintain an open and respectful discussion in order to build a sense of togetherness and collaboration. The diversity of our origin and the differences in our viewpoints are essential assets that we must leverage in order to make difficult decisions and establish consensus on crucial issues in the coming days. However, you must be able to draw out daggers, fight and rake up chaos in order to get into our books.

Lastly, please be aware that this background guide only serves as a starter for information and some direction. Delegates are expected to sincerely carry out their own research about their country and its stance on the problem, as well as how our Agendas and AMUN work. We wish to see innovative and original ideas, opinions, and arguments. In the end, what matters most to us is the overall learning of delegates and that you leave with a memorable experience.

Regards,
Chairs of The First General Assembly.
Ansh Uchil, Rohit Advani, Ian Lobo



CHAIRS? WHO?



Ansh Uchil
Head Chair



Rohit Advani
Head Chair



Kyan Oliveira
Co Chair



WHAT IS DISEC?

The United Nations has six committees that gather annually to discuss and tackle both global and regional problems, which are mainly called “General Assembly” committees. The Disarmament and Security Committee is one of them, in fact, it is usually referred to as the First General Assembly, though the numbering does not convey any meaning. The committee, along with the rest of the General Assembly committees, plays a pivotal role in international policymaking, creating a guideline for arms control and nuclear weapons proliferation, resolving regional conflicts, and serves as an advisory board for the United Nations Security Council, which is tasked with safeguarding the stability of the international community.

The jurisdiction of the Disarmament and Security Committee, mostly referred to as its acronym DISEC, is quite extensive. Topics under its purview include the regulation of armaments, resolving regional conflicts, preventing an outer-space arms race, and fostering international peace through disarmament.

DISEC operates under the rules set in stone by the United Nations Charter, therefore participation in the committee is quite demanding, as delegates need to display a profound understanding of conflict resolving, diplomatic finesse, and a commitment to the principles as mentioned earlier, which are, again, tied to the United Nations Charter. Additionally, navigating the intricate web of international politics is quite tricky when themes like justice, equity, arms race, and world peace are hanging in the balance, therefore a harmonious approach from delegates is most appreciated. So seeing you all at the conference, and we wish you the very best with your research and preparations! Please feel free to contact us for any queries or details, we'd be more than happy to help. So we believe that this is it from us. Remember to prep and we'll see you all in due time! Good Luck!



AGENDA 1 & 2

1. The illegal trade of small arms fuels ongoing conflicts and insurgencies across West Africa
2. Addressing the Impact of Drug Cartels on Security in Latin America



AGENDA 1

This is coupled with high demand from various non-state actors who exploit the availability of arms for activities ranging from localized insurgencies to wider rebellions against state authorities, significantly disrupting peace and security. The impacts of such an unregulated flow of arms are very deep, affecting the political landscape down to the daily lives of millions of civilians.

Violence and insecurity in communities around West Africa increasingly threaten the possibilities of agriculture, trade, and education that come with regional development. In such a way, violence as a culture is produced with arms, where all disputes and grievances would be better resolved by means of armed conflict than peaceful negotiation. Furthermore, it raises the intensity of any form of conflict that results in a higher casualty rate and prolongs unrest.

Such efforts at rectifying the problem have comprised international initiatives and agreements that aim to regionalize attempts at arms control and reductions. These measures encompass border security enhancement, capacities improvements of national governments' responsibilities to manage and monitor arm flows, and dislodging the combatants for putting down their arms in favor of being integrated back to civil society.

These initiatives have been variously successful, with corruption, lack of resources, and political instability being major factors. For a more sustainable and peaceful future, it is crucial that these efforts are strengthened and supported by a comprehensive approach that includes not only security and legal measures but also economic development programs to address the root causes of conflict and arms proliferation in West Africa.



AGENDA 1

The illicit trade of small arms and light weapons within West Africa is considered a critical issue that greatly contributes to ongoing conflicts and insurgencies across the region. This situation has deep historical roots and is exacerbated by various socio-economic and political factors that challenge the stability and security of West African nations collectively.

Historical Context and Proliferation of SALW:

Historically, the proliferation of small arms in West Africa is traced back to the periods of colonial rule and further Cold War influences, where foreign powers supplied different groups with weapons. In the post-independence period, these arms were not managed or contained, thus making them widely available. Today, these weapons are accessible and relatively cheap; thus, they remain the tools of choice for rebel groups, insurgents, and criminals.

Factors Contributing to the Trade:

Various factors make the trade in illegal arms in the region quite high. These include:

- **Porous Borders:** With the vastness of borders and poor patrol, especially in West Africa, smuggling arms across countries is rather easy. That lack of strict border control is abused by traffickers to advance the flow of weapons.
- **Political Instability:** Most West African countries face political turmoil and difficulties in governance. Coups and other forms of internal conflict result in vacuums of power that are usually filled by armed groups relying on the illegal arms trade to strengthen themselves.
- **Corruption:** Corruption within the political and military institutions means that legally acquired weapons may be diverted into the black market, to be sold to the highest bidder without regard to the consequences that may accrue.
- **Economic Factors:** The high incidence of poverty and unemployment among the populace presents the SALW trade and its use as a lucrative option for those experiencing poor economic conditions. Equally, armed violence perpetuates control over highly valued resources, thus further increasing the incentive to acquire and use SALE.



AGENDA 1

Impacts on Regional Stability:

The impacts of illegal trade in small arms are indeed profound and far-reaching.

- **Escalation of Conflicts:** Easy access to small arms escalates conflicts, making them more lethal and prolonged. Armed groups can function better and pose challenges to the state authority, prolonging unrest.
- **Humanitarian Crises:** The easy availability of small arms perpetuates armed conflict, with consequent massive humanitarian crises, displacement, loss of life, and human rights abuses.
- **Hampering Development:** Continuous instability and violence have impeded economic development. Investments are discouraged, infrastructure is destroyed, and communities are plunged into poverty.
- **Implications for the Security Sector:** The general proliferation of small arms has complicated the efforts of national and international bodies to restore peace and enforce law and order.

Potential Solutions:

The problem needs to be tackled from various angles:

- **Improved Border Security:** The strengthening of border controls with enhanced surveillance and coordination between nations will reduce the cross-border flow of illegal arms.
- **International Cooperation:** Regional and international cooperation is necessary for tracking and controlling the movement of arms. Agreements and treaties should be effectively implemented and enforced.
- **Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Measures:** Promote transparency and accountability within the government and military forces so that corruption and diversion of arms from legal to illegal markets decrease.
- **Alternative Livelihood and Community Outreach Programs:** Offering alternative economic activities and involving communities in peacebuilding processes can serve as a disincentive for armed violence as part of economic survival.

In conclusion, while the challenges are significant, a coordinated and comprehensive approach involving local, regional, and international actors can mitigate the effects of the illegal trade of small arms, thereby contributing to the stability and development of West Africa.



AGENDA 1

Past UN Solutions

1. Enhancing International Cooperation

- **Relevant Resolution:** UN General Assembly Resolution 67/189 (2012) on strengthening international cooperation to combat organized crime.
- **Solution:** Promote cross-border intelligence sharing, joint task forces, and harmonized legal frameworks to disrupt drug cartels' operations across Latin America.

2. Combatting Illicit Drug Trafficking

- **Relevant Resolution:** UN Security Council Resolution 2482 (2019) on the linkages between organized crime and terrorism.
- **Solution:** Strengthen regional counter-narcotics strategies, focusing on dismantling production networks, financial flows, and transportation systems used by cartels.

3. Addressing Socio-Economic Drivers

- **Relevant Framework:** The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- **Solution:** Address root causes such as poverty, inequality, and lack of economic opportunities that fuel the recruitment of individuals into cartels. This involves investment in education, employment, and social development programs in affected regions.



TIMELINE 1

Date	Event
1938	Large-scale arms shipments by European colonial powers to Africa for World War II leave surplus weapons post-war.
1956	With countries such as Ghana gaining independence, small arms were left behind by the departing colonial administrations.
1963	Onset of post-independence conflicts, with arms supplies by both the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War era.
1975	The Sahel drought increases armed banditry, thus the trans-frontier arms trafficking was increasing.
1989	Flooding of West Africa, especially the subregion, with surplus armament stocks after the Cold War; the AK-47 was about everywhere, accessible, and so cheap.
1991	Break-out of the Sierra Leone Civil War, heavily soaked with trade in illicit arms.
1997	ECOWAS declares a moratorium on the import, export, and manufacture of small arms.
2001	ECOWAS adopts a legally binding convention to control the proliferation of small arms.



TIMELINE 1

Date	Event
2006	Liberia and Sierra Leone emerge from civil wars but leave behind a massive surplus of arms, much of which is smuggled to neighboring countries.
2013	The UNODC reported that West Africa is increasingly serving as a transit point for trafficking in arms to other regions.
2017	The rise of jihadist groups across the Sahel region has been perpetuated, amongst other things, by illegal small arms.
2021	In the face of this trend, ECOWAS resumed effort in combating small arms proliferation with the assistance of the European Union and African Union focused on border controls and the disarmament process.
2023	Illegal small arms continue fueling ongoing conflicts across certain regions of northern Nigeria and Mali amid persistent international calls for fresh strategies dealing with the root causes that give rise to arms trafficking.





QARMAS 1

- 1. What practical steps can be taken to enhance international collaboration towards an effective fight against the illegal trade of small arms in West Africa?
 - How can international arms trade agreements be strengthened to include stringent monitoring and verification mechanisms specific to West Africa?
 - How far could global organizations, the United Nations, or regional agencies like ECOWAS help in coordination?
- What steps could be taken to diminish the leverage of armed groups over political and law enforcement structures?
 - In what ways could states show more transparency and accountability for their military and police machinery to stop arms from falling into diversions?
 - What support can be given to governments to resist the extortion and coercion by armed groups?
- How, based on socio-economic improvement, can recruitment by insurgent groups be avoided and demand for small arms reduced?
 - Development programs initiated on what lines will offer economic alternatives to young men and thus avoid joining armed groups?
 - Changing the cultural perception of small arms as symbols of power could be facilitated through education and community engagement.
- What role should regional organizations like ECOWAS, or even international bodies like the African Union and the UN, play to put an end to the spread of small arms?
 - How can the different organizations facilitate the implementation of wide-ranging arms control initiatives?
 - What support can they provide to enhance local capacities for arms collection and destruction?
- How can governments ensure the protection of civilians caught in conflicts fueled by the illegal trade of small arms?
 - What strategies can be adopted to strengthen community resilience and safety against armed violence?
 - In what ways can international human rights organizations be involved in the monitoring and reporting of abuses associated with small arms conflicts?



AGENDA 2

For decades, Latin America has remained a hub for the illicit drug market and a target of international efforts to eradicate the production of cocaine and marijuana. Many scholars attribute the surge of drug trafficking in Latin America to the instability of the region and its complex political and social landscape. However, many places around the world have experienced some degree of similar fragmentation, yet they do not struggle with the emergence of powerful groups that have been able to infiltrate the government and the military while becoming epicenters of drug production. Even though there have been several attempts to kill it, the illicit drug market has strengthened, and drug production continues to increase. For example, coca leaf production has reached countries like Guatemala and Honduras, whereas previously, only Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador produced it. Understanding how this black market has remained a constant in Latin America in an ever-changing world might be the key to understanding how to dismantle it.

The agenda "Addressing the Impact of Drug Cartels on Security in Latin America" is rooted in the profound and multifaceted threats posed by these criminal organizations to the stability of the region. Drug cartels operate vast and sophisticated networks, driven by global demand for illicit substances, particularly in markets like the United States and Europe. Latin America's geographic position as a producer of cocaine and a transit hub for other drugs has made it a central battlefield in the global drug trade. Over decades, cartels have expanded their influence through corruption, intimidation, and violence, infiltrating law enforcement, government institutions, and local economies. The dismantling of major cartels, such as Colombia's Medellín and Cali cartels in the 1990s, led to a shift from centralized to decentralized operations, resulting in the proliferation of smaller but often more brutal groups, such as Mexico's Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels. These organizations not only engage in drug trafficking but also diversify into other criminal enterprises, such as human trafficking, extortion, and arms smuggling. Their activities have exacerbated violence, displaced populations, and undermined the rule of law across the region. This agenda underscores the critical need for coordinated international efforts, comprehensive policy reforms, and regional cooperation to address the systemic security challenges posed by drug cartels in Latin America.



AGENDA 2

Past UN Efforts

Strengthening Arms Control Mechanisms

- **Relevant Resolution:** UN Security Council Resolution 2117 (2013)
- **Solution:** Enhance national legislation and border controls to monitor and restrict the flow of illicit small arms. Improve arms stockpile management and enforce destruction of surplus weapons to prevent their misuse.

Regional Collaboration

- **Relevant Framework:** ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms (2006)
- **Solution:** Promote cross-border cooperation among West African nations to enhance intelligence sharing, conduct joint operations against trafficking networks, and build regional monitoring systems.

Marking, Record-Keeping, and Tracing

- **Relevant Resolution:** UN Security Council Resolution 2220 (2015)
- **Solution:** Implement mandatory marking of firearms and establish comprehensive records to trace the origins and movements of illicit arms. This improves accountability and disrupts illegal supply chains.



TIMELINE 2

Date	Event
1940s-1950s	Coca cultivation and cocaine production begin to emerge in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia.
1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The U.S. War on Drugs begins, increasing enforcement efforts and creating a lucrative black market for narcotics.• Colombian cartels, such as Medellín and Cali, establish dominance in cocaine production and trafficking routes.
1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Medellín Cartel, led by Pablo Escobar, becomes infamous for violence, corruption, and its role in the cocaine trade.• The Cali Cartel grows in power, focusing on a more discreet and business-like approach• Mexican cartels, such as the Guadalajara Cartel, begin controlling trafficking routes into the U.S., collaborating with Colombian cartels.
1990s	Colombian authorities, with U.S. assistance, dismantle the Medellín and Cali cartels, capturing or killing their leaders.
1994	NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) unintentionally facilitates cartel smuggling by increasing cross-border trade routes.
Late 1990s	Mexican cartels, including the Sinaloa Cartel, fill the power vacuum left by the collapse of Colombian cartels.



TIMELINE 2

Date	Event
2000	Mexico's President Vicente Fox begins militarized crackdowns on cartels, escalating violence.
2006	Mexico's President Felipe Calderón launches a full-scale "War on Drugs," leading to fragmentation of cartels and increased infighting.
2009	The emergence of Los Zetas, a cartel known for extreme violence, further destabilizes Mexico.
2010s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartels diversify into other criminal activities, such as extortion, human trafficking, and illegal mining. • Violence surges in Central America as trafficking routes shift to countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) rises to prominence, becoming one of Mexico's most powerful and violent cartels. • Colombia's peace deal with the FARC leads to increased coca cultivation, as former FARC territories are taken over by criminal groups.
2020	The COVID-19 pandemic disrupts supply chains, forcing cartels to adapt their trafficking methods and increase local violence.
2021–Present	Latin American governments struggle to combat cartels' influence amid corruption, weak institutions, and economic instability.
2023	Calls for regional cooperation and reform grow, emphasizing the need for international strategies to address the cartel crisis.





QARMAS 2

- What measures can be implemented to address the socio-economic factors enabling cartels' growth?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to combat transnational drug trafficking?
- What strategies can be adopted to reduce violence and ensure the safety of civilians?
- How can corruption within law enforcement and government institutions be addressed?
- What alternative livelihoods can be provided to communities dependent on drug production?
- How can the global demand for illicit drugs be effectively reduced?
- What role should regional organizations and international bodies play in addressing the cartel crisis?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

**[CLICK ME TO ACCESS THE BIBLIOGRAPHY
GOOGLE DOCUMENT!](#)**

