**Message from the Director of the Security Council**

Delegates,

Hello and welcome to DAYMUNC XXVII! My name is Amanda Baker and I will be your Director for Security Council. I am so excited to lead this council and hope you all find this committee to be information and a wonderful experience! I am a graduate of Wright State University with a Master’s Degree in International and Comparative Politics and I currently work at SierTek, a defense company that collaborates with the United States government to ensure cyber security for the US and its allies. I have gained many career and personal opportunities through my participation in Model United Nations and the Dayton Model United Nations Conference and I hope this experience is as valuable to you as it was to me

The topics before the Security Council are:

1. The Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons
2. The Role of Youth in Peacekeeping and Security

I have chosen these topics to give Security Council (SC) delegates an opportunity to explore security issues through two very different lenses. Being the future of tomorrow, I want to assist SC delegates in their understanding of the United Nations (UN) and how they can play a part in making the world safer for everybody. Before we get into the topics, I want to provide you with a little context about the SC and the function it provides for the UN.

The role of the SC differs from other committees of the UN in a few key aspects. First and foremost, the SC is the only committee of the UN that issues legally-binding documents which require international regulations on the resolutions passed by the committee. All other UN bodies release resolutions that are suggestions for the international community but are not binding. The SC is comprised of 10 rotating members from each of the major world regions, such as Asia and Africa, and 5 permanent members called the P-5. The P-5 consists of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These five States have the ability to veto any proposed resolution, but typically use discretion in this decision. I highly suggest researching the topics your State would veto if you are representing one of the P-5 States. Lastly, the SC’s main purpose is to establish and maintain global security and responds quickly to escalating tensions within other countries.

Now that we have established the purpose of the SC, I will include some background detail about the two topics for you all to consider. I look forward to working with you and I hope you all find a passion for engaging in world politics and making the world a better place!

Sincerely,

Amanda Baker

**I. The Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons**

“Weapons enable their user to dramatically enhance the ability to project power and to exercise coercive control within and across national borders” SC Resolution 2015/289

The illicit trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is an epidemic that touches every single country in the world. Many parts of Asia remain in states of armed conflict and the proliferation of these weapons makes it increasingly difficult for the factions in Asian States to find a lasting and meaningful peace with one another (UNRCPD)[[1]](#footnote-1). Although the UN has stepped in many times to embargo arms deals to countries in these conflicts, the issue is undercut by weapons trafficking. Although the UN has recognized the issues with the trafficking of SALW, the SC only took the issue up in 2013 and has published three subsequent resolutions on it (UNODA)[[2]](#footnote-2).

***Definitions***

Although small arms and light weapons are addressed together in international frameworks to prevent the illicit weapons trade, it is essential to understand the differences and the weapons that fit into each category:

* “Small arms” are weapons that can be carried and used by a single individual. These include pistols, revolvers, rifles, carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns
* “Light weapons” are designed for use by two to three individuals, although they may be transported by one. These include heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles, and mortars. [[3]](#footnote-3)

***Existing Frameworks***

The Programme of Action (PoA) on SALW is the most prolific framework on the prevention of illicit trade in SALW. The PoA was implemented by the UN in 2001 and the UN has worked since then to integrate all States into the Programme and provide realistic goals of counterproliferation[[4]](#footnote-4). Two of these measures include the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) and the Group of Governmental Experts on Brokering Controls. The UN works with regional groups such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address region-specific problems such as the ongoing conflict in Asian States. In 2019, the SC encouraged more cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the members of the PoA to address ongoing conflicts and human rights violations related to the illicit weapons trade (Security Council (SC) resolution 2457, 2019).

The ITI is a method of tracing the origin of SALW to ensure legal trade and adherence to regulations outlined in the PoA. These include stamping on the side of all SALW with a unique indicator for each State involved with the PoA.[[5]](#footnote-5) Furthermore, this instrument is intended to promote international cooperation in combatting the illicit weapons trade and does not limit a State’s ability to manufacture or trade weapons meant for security, self-defense, or peacekeeping needs. [[6]](#footnote-6)

***Human Rights Concerns***

The aforementioned conflicts continuing in the Asian region, as well as other regions of the world, is one of the primary human rights concerns with illegal transfer of SALW. For example, SC resolution 2457 (2019) indicates the ongoing conflicts between warring factions in Africa, leading to the displacement of African people and severely endangering lives of African women and children caught up in the conflicts, as women and children tend to suffer more through armed conflict than other groups.[[7]](#footnote-7) Although the AU is making efforts towards disarmament, the governments of individual African countries will have to continue their efforts with the AU and the UN to effectively disarm non-state actors (NSAs) that threaten the livelihoods of their citizens. One of the main parts of this will be weapons collection and combatting terrorism that threatens peace within and between the borders of African countries. SC resolution 2457 (2019) indicates the role of terrorist organizations in weapons trafficking and calls upon the AU and individual African countries to take measures to combat terrorist organizations.

The size and portability of these weapons not only makes them easy to conceal, it also makes for the perfect weapon for use by child soldiers.[[8]](#footnote-8) According to Human Rights Watch, there are as many as 70,000 boys serving in the national government, many of whom were taken from their families at a young age and will likely never see their families again. [[9]](#footnote-9) Furthermore, armed resistance groups in Sierra Leone have captured young boys to serve in their anti-governmental activities. This use of children as soldiers interrupts the child’s life, removes him from his family and school, and scars the child with the horrors of war at a young age. All of these issues perpetuate the cycle of poverty as many of the children face stigma if they ever have the chance to return to their families.[[10]](#footnote-10) Without proper framework to enforce regulations on the trade of SALW, warring parties will continue to use children as soldiers and force them into a future of limited possibilities.

Another concern for trafficking of arms is the connection to drug trafficking and money laundering, as all three are essential parts of international criminal syndicates. Trafficked weapons give criminal enterprises the necessary protection to continue illicit activities with drugs and money. [[11]](#footnote-11) Unlike drugs and money, weapons are durable and not consumable, resulting in the trafficking of weapons to be more sporadic than drug trafficking and money laundering. This makes weapons trafficking more difficult to trace and, thus, prevent in the international realm.

*Questions to consider*

* How can the international community continue to combat the illicit trade of SALW?
* What measures should be taken to ensure child soldiers are not used by government and NSAs during times of conflict?
* How can the UN and AU build cooperation to disarm NSAs?
* How should governments better trace weapons sold to other governments?

**II. The Role of Youth in Peacekeeping and Security**

“Young women and young men have a critical role in promoting and maintaining international peace and security.” Youth4Peace

The Arab Spring is one of the biggest uprisings the world has seen in the last decade, and is attributed mainly to a large youth population in Arab countries affected by the protests.[[12]](#footnote-12) However, the international community should shift their focus to see youth as agents of change instead of perpetrators of protests, uprisings, and violent extremism. The SC first recognized the positive impact youth can have on the international climate in SC resolution 2250 (2015), which identifies five key elements in youth in peacekeeping and security: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration.[[13]](#footnote-13) Youth populations create the largest percentage of the world’s population and, undoubtedly, control the future of international security. However, children and young teens are more likely to be affected by conflict than older generations, even if the youth populations do not choose to engage in this conflict.[[14]](#footnote-14)

SC resolution 2250 (2015) outlines methods which will lead to increased participation from youth, protection, prevention of youth participation in violence, partnerships and disengagement and reintegration of youth following armed conflict. To begin, the resolution outlines ways in which youth populations can be integrated into decision-making processes to encourage youth populations to take ownership of their States’ future. This includes youth participation into national decision making and peace talks between their government and foreign actors or NSAs[[15]](#footnote-15).

Furthermore, the resolution calls upon all States to adhere to the Geneva Convention protocols when concerning youth in conflict zones, as youth populations, along with women, are more likely to be targets of war crimes and are more likely to become refugees. Thus, to ensure the future of the youth, States must respect the rights of youth during times of armed conflict. Moreover, this suggests preventing the use of child soldiers during times of conflict. The resolution calls for quality education to youth populations to ensure that all children have a chance to make positive changes in their State and internationally.[[16]](#footnote-16) Moreover, SC resolution 2250 (2015) calls upon the Peacebuilding Committee to engage with youth populations on how to handle violent extremist acts perpetrated by young people involved with terrorist organizations and to prevent youth populations from engaging with these organizations.

Lastly, the resolution calls for gender-sensitive youth employment schemes to assist with disengagement and reintegration of youth populations that have been affected as child soldiers or used in violent extremist organizations.[[17]](#footnote-17) These combined measures are meant to facilitate youth participation in the decision-making process and ensure youth populations are engaged in peace-building and security structures both inside the UN and in their own States.

SC resolution 2282 (2016) calls upon the Peacebuilding Commission to actively engage with youth populations to create integrated strategies that include all sectors of the population. The youth population is the largest it has been in years; therefore, young people are pivotal to their States’ future in peacekeeping operations. Moreover, youth populations can better facilitate measure to keep young people safe during peacekeeping operations because vulnerable youth populations can easily become victims to the very people who are present to create peace.[[18]](#footnote-18)

This resolution also requests the Peacekeeping commission to engage in gendered perspective since girls and women are more at risk of human rights violations, including the use of rape as a weapon of war.[[19]](#footnote-19) Women and girls are already in vulnerable positions during times of conflict and are more likely to lose out on education and work during conflicts, therefore their input on the actions of the Peacekeeping Commission are incredibly important to consider.

*Questions to consider*

* In what ways can the SC continue to engage with youth populations to create a greater security structure?
* How should individual Member States be more inclusive of the youth in policy-making?
* How can women and girls be integrated more into the SC and other bodies of the UN?
* What measures can the international community take to make a more friendly environment for youth, with an emphasis on women and girls?

1. <http://unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/poa/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.un-arm.org/PoAISS/InternationalTracingInstrument.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/poa/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.un-arm.org/PoAISS/InternationalTracingInstrument.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.un-arm.org/PoAISS/InternationalTracingInstrument.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/arms/small-arms-full-070703.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/arms/small-arms-full-070703.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/arms/small-arms-full-070703.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/backgrounder/arms/small-arms-full-070703.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/firearms-trafficking.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.youth4peace.info/About_YPS_Agenda> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2282(2016)&referer=/english/&Lang=E> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2282(2016)&referer=/english/&Lang=E> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)