

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Opening Speech: 90 seconds

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DISEC was the first committee to take part of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). It works as a forum in which representatives from all UN members' debate on disarmament and security issues, in an environment of equality. As a member of the UNGA, its aim and purpose is to recommend possible solutions that pursue the prevention or reduction of international hostilities and conflicts by the use of resolutions of other organs of the UN such as the Security Council (UNSC). Neither the committee nor any of its delegates has the right to impose any type of sanction; if it desired, their members first would have to present the case and then by a voting process, pass the proposal directly to the UNSC.

Topic 1: Reduction of military budgets

At the end of the cold war, the change of strategic surroundings and military perspectives posed a possible reduction of the military budget in every country of the world. The end of the arms race between United States and The Russian

Federation (at the time the Soviet Union), led to partial cuts in the military expenditure of each country. However, in developing countries there has been a dramatic change of scenario regarding their military budgets. There are various nations increasing their expenditures, mainly because of local insecurities (internal conflicts such as civil wars, fights against belligerent groups, etc.) and the beginning of local arms races among nations. Some clear examples are Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel.

The article 47 of the UN charter states that the "Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its Disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament" (un.org). This establishes that the reduction of military budget is mandatory to achieve the principal goals of the United Nations. Moreover, it also mentions plans that will be submitted to all members of the General Assembly for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments. However, this plan has been already established by one

of the Security Council subsidiary organs, the military staff committee¹. Yet, it still has not managed to regulate the budgets of all the countries.

It is important to emphasize that, military budgets do not only center on the arms trade. They also focus on:

1. Personnel: Consists of direct and indirect labor expenses; they include housing for combatants and non-combatants, and healthcare. For uniformed and non-uniformed (civilians).
2. Military Construction: The fund of the creation of barracks, unit headquarters, and hangars for aircraft
3. Research and innovation: Development and testing, both for pre-operational and operational new weapons systems that are developed for modern warfare.
4. Procurement or equipment: This is the fund used to purchase any long-term equipment for the forces.
5. Operations and Maintenance: This consists of short term equipment (fuel, or reparation of material)

6. Overseas operations: It determines how much capital should be invested in overseas operations.

The following graph shows the countries that spend the most in military in comparison with each other. Making it clear that the United States has more budget than the addition of the others countries.

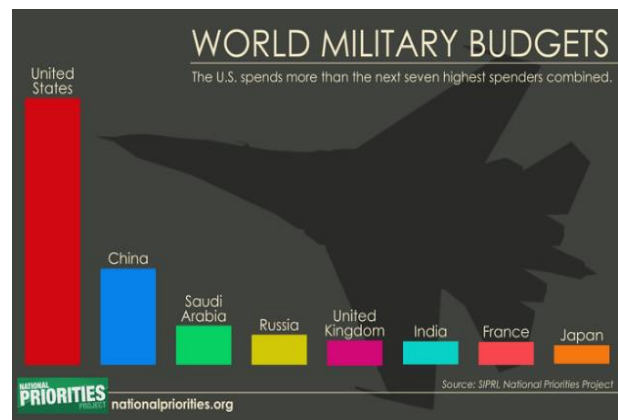


Figure 1: 2015 Highest Military Budgets

It is important to clarify that, weapons have become less expensive in the increasingly competitive world market, giving the opportunity to other developed countries to export armament to other countries. According to a recent study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), who is an independent institute and resource for

¹<https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/subsidiary/m-sc>

Global Security matters, has determined that the biggest exporter of arms and the dominant force in the arms trade is the United States of America. With a total share of exports that hits 39% (SIPR, 2015). The main buyers of weapons by part of the USA are Turkey, Australia, Egypt; other nations depend of the expenditure of the United States. Nonetheless, other countries such as China (5.9%), Russia (25%) and France (5.6%) contribute in the market as key exporters, as shown in the below graph.

due to the external dispute for the territory in Kashmir and the aggressions made by countries like Pakistan in the region. In terms of international law this is completely legal, according to article 51 of the UN CHARTER, which states that every country can have a military of their own in order to protect the benefits and the interests of the country (un.org). India, is a clear example of the many countries that increase their military expenditures every year because of internal and external disputes,

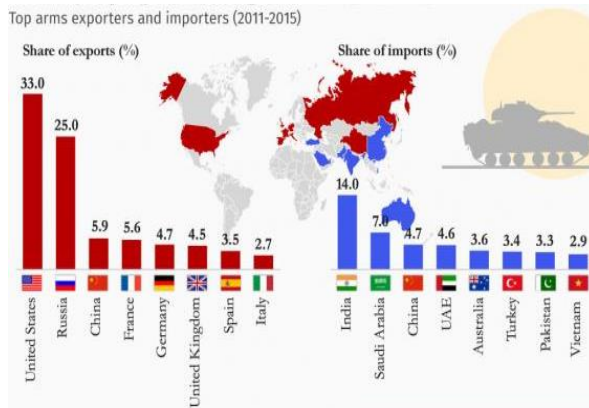


Figure 2: Major players in the global arms market of 2015. (STATISTA, 2015)

We can appreciate that not only the main countries are the ones that export their goods and increase their military budget by selling weaponry and equipment, but indeed, the importers. The Republic of India, is the top importer of weaponry provided by the Russian Federation; this

There are mainly two primary positions regarding the topic:

- Countries such as the United States stands for leaving unchanged their military budget and keep exporting weaponry to the whole globe. This is corroborated by the fact that Donald Trump, boosted its annually military budget for 2017 to 54 billion dollars, it stands for more than their 3% GDP. However, this increase is mostly for defense and internal affairs protection, because the US government has spoken that they will abstain from entering other

international disputes in the world.

- Countries that feel threatened with an increase in the military budget. This means they are against the increase of the already established limit and want to follow the already established agreements in order to prevent a quarrel between nations and stop another arms race.

Even though this is an ongoing discussion in international affairs, there has been already established some solutions in the past. For instance, the Russian Federation and The United States of America, had made an agreement on using Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, or also known as the new START treaty. This treaty entered in vigor in February 2011 until 2021.

It basically consists that both nations have, “Verification measures that are established under the treaty and include on-site inspections and exhibitions, data exchanges and notifications related to strategic offensive arms and facilities covered by the Treaty, to facilitate the use of national technical means for treaty monitoring ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) and SLBM (Submarine

Launch Ballistic Missile) launches” (State.gov). Unfortunately, it is limited to only two nations and has not worked correctly due to the fact that military expenditure still increases and the armies of both parties are getting more powerful, creating fear in international relations.

Some viable solutions for this problematic, can be the implementation of a worldwide treaty that regulates every country’s expenditure. Is up to the delegates establish the parameters that this treaty can have regarding measures on how it could be controlled. However, they need to take into account that these measures do not influence directly on the internal and external policies of each country, because they will violate their sovereignty and articles 57 of the UN charter.

Another solution is to create an international shared fund, controlled directly by the Security Council military staff. Exclusive for the use of developing countries when they are at conflict risk (internal or external), to avoid using their GDP as a primary source of expenditure and preventing an economic collapse in their respective nations. Furthermore, the delegations that form part of the DISEC committee, must establish an initial fee



for all nations that want to be part of this fund, if the committee accepts this. Thus, it needs to be considered the geopolitical situation that a country is facing and the chair will mostly open to innovative solutions that come from part of each delegation in the committee.

It is expected from the delegates that they are capable providing clear and punctual solutions, about how military budget should be handled. It is also imperative, that delegates are informed with not only the expenditures of their delegations, but instead compliment their investigation with already existing treaties (established by the UN Security Council or any agreement among nations) about the regulation of military budgets as a whole. Besides, it is important to reach a neutral point or agreement between all delegations in the committee, to accord to a minimal budget for military expenditure that benefits all parties around the world. Also, evaluate if treaties that are being implemented like START, would keep working, or it should be reevaluated in order to reduce military expenditures in all countries.

Measures or mechanisms that you decide in each of the formed blocks, would be taken in consideration by all delegations



and can be applied in the international context; that's why, it is significant to be concise, specific and be supported by substantial evidence from official organizations and other entities that promote disarmament and peace around the globe.

Guiding Questions:

1. To what extent does the military budget affect the international politics of your country?
2. What Treaties have worked in order to reduce military budget apart from the START and the new START treaty?
3. What legal mechanisms should be taken into account if the military budget of a country overpasses the established limit?
4. What should be done with countries that depend on the importation or exportation of armaments?
5. How could developing countries that need military aid be helped?

Reference Links:

<http://carecon.org.uk/Chula/MILLDCSnew.pdf>

<http://stopwapenhandel.org/node/1000>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/conventions/mile/>

Topic 2: Anti – personnel mines

The military equipment industry is one of the biggest economic businesses worldwide. The development of new weaponry means power. Power is one of the most important wills of countries worldwide. Represents economic growth and development disregarding the harm it can make to the human kind. Anti-personnel land mines, also known as APL's are an example of the development of the industry, representing harm during and after armed conflicts.

The APL's are triggered by pressing, and are laid down on the ground, this way when a person (in many cases civilians) steps on it, the device explodes. Causing permanent disabilities and death. The use of this kind of weapons for armed conflicts concerns the international community, this is due to the fact that these weapons harm a very high percentage of the civilians, and may explode years after the conflict is over. Not to mention that a mined land represents imminent danger, avoiding better uses for land. After a territory is filled with these devices, soil is affected creating difficulties on using it for the

future either for agriculture or permanence of living organisms.

Since the 1980's the use of this kind of material in emulations, has been attempted to be regulated. This attempt was done through the CCW treaty. Which consists on regulating its use but not completely banning it.

The 18th of September of 1997, a new treaty was created: The mine ban convention, which entered in force in 1999. This treaty has been adopted by 162 states. And establishes a framework for mine action, seeking both to end existing suffering and to prevent future suffering. It bans the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. (<http://www.apminebanconvention.org/overview-and-convention-text>)



Figure 3: Countries that are party of the mine ban convention.

The diagram above, explicitly shows how powers such as: **The United States, China and Russia**, have not yet adopted the measure of banning the production, stockpiling and use of the mines. Giving lead to international controversy on why three main powers haven't agreed to include this measures under their law.

In the other hand, even though the mine ban convention has already been adopted by three quarters of the international community, the legacy of the past and the ongoing internal conflicts, result in thousands of casualties yearly. Countries such as: **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Colombia and Myanmar**, are examples of post conflict harm by the hand of this kind of hardware.

The European Union has also been very involved on the prevention of mined lands. Since 2008, they have designed a European commission on international cooperation and development². Very related with the international Red Cross campaign, where they seek to disarm territories worldwide. Many times this labor is not easy and countries such as **Belarus, Greece and Ukraine** hold more

than 10 million of anti-personnel mines as a consequence of past conflicts.

Bearing this kind of information, the international community should try to find a solution that stops the imminent danger these weapons generate to innocent civilians.

Guiding Questions:

1. How is your delegation able to help on the disarmament of anti-personnel land mines?
2. Until what extend can your country fulfill the laws stated by the APL's ban convention? Is it a signatory member of the treaty? If no why?
3. What are the rates of innocent and non-innocent casualties coming from APL's in your country?
4. Is your country in the economic capacity of implementing strategies to disarm armed territories? How can it contribute to the most affected countries?

Reference Links:

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/anti-personnel-mines>

²http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/fragility-and-crisis-management/links-between-security-and-development/landmines-and-small_en

<http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/home.aspx>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/conventions/landmines/>

<http://www.apminebanconvention.org/overview-and-convention-text>

Topic 3: The Question of the Arms Trade Treaty

Subsequent to the General Assembly meeting on the 6th of December 2006 the idea of creating a legally binding instrument in charge of a transparent and multilateral negotiation basis on the standards for export, import and transfer from light weapons to heavy armament was born. Member states requested the Secretary General to convoke a group of governmental experts to examine the draft parameters of founding such international tool and later submit their report on the sixty-second General Assembly meeting under the included provisional agenda item labelled as “Towards arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms”.

During the next two meetings the General Assembly followed the Secretary General and the group of experts consensus on doing a step-to-step plan to accomplish the creation of an Arms Trade Treaty seeking to avoid the inclusion of small weaponry into the illicit market and the reach of insurgent groups to high calibre hardware. In an international accord, in December of 2009 General Assembly Resolution proceeded with the creation of a United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty scheduled for four (4) consecutive weeks in the 2012 in order to achieve the devising of a robust treaty.

During such conference the international community was unable to accept the treaty. Even though the majority of member states were willing to proceed with the acceptance of the arms trade regulatory instrument such decision required a consensus to pass, in this case the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China refused to vote in favour and vetoed it claiming the need of having more time for consideration. Further on, in the sixty-seventh General Assembly session, delegates programmed a final conference for the end of 2013 in order to reform the draft for



the Arms Trade Treaty having in mind the previous unconformity of certain countries. Finally the treaty was adopted in the resolution 67/234 B and open for signature. Finally 130 countries signed it and among this one's 63 ratified it.

The ATT designates that all parties should adopt national regulation for the flow of conventional weaponry, build common international standards before any export authorization and annually report all import, export and armament transfer treaty secretariat. Requires that the use of weapons will be exclusively for the maintenance of peace and security around the globe; fight against any sever violation to the international humanitarian law, terrorism, transnational organized crime activity, or other possible offense to civilians. As well prohibits the authorized transfer which, by knowledge of the state, "would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians protected as such, or other war crimes" (un.org).

Its main purpose is to make all state parties establish a national control of the import, export and transfer of the seven



(7) conventional weapons listed on the UN Register of Conventional Arms and its use supervision.

The question lays on the real impact of the ATT and the complete acceptance of such. As expressed by the US is important to reach a consensus in order to accept its implementation as the regulatory instrument in charge of monitoring and supervising the export, import and transfer of arms all around the globe. The fact that some of the leading arm trading countries such as Russia and China abstain from its implementation impedes it from accomplishing its purpose. According to the SIPRI's Arms Transfer Database for 2013 the ratifying countries cover the twenty-four point two (4.2) per cent of the arms trade, if all signatory states will be included in such category then it will cover the fifty-nine (59) per cent and the remaining forty-one (41) per cent to the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China meaning that without their approval the ATT intervention and trading regulation will be insignificant.

Besides its failure on being a multilateral tool, the Arms Trade Treaty has underestimated the power of ammunition, munitions and components

of weaponry regarding the functions of the weapons themselves. Even though this material is adhered to separated articles, the treaty has not enforced the necessary regulation nor supplementation; its scope is focused on the conventional arms listed and light armament while it ignores the fact that the elements mentioned above are those in charge of making the machine work, the object itself (weapons) are made for long-lasting periods with unlimited usage, meaning that they have better access to what really feeds the usage.

The purpose of the graph is to highlight the fact that the expense of the ammunition overthrows in great value the one given for any of the other categories (civil weapons and military weapons).

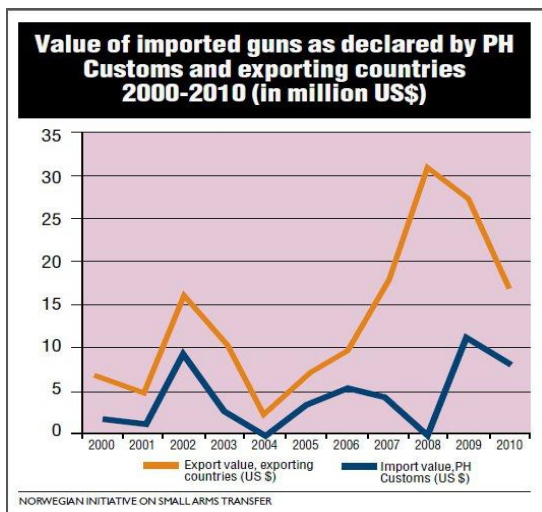


Figure 4: US import and export of small weapons and ammunition.

The defense cooperation agreement is exempt from the treaty, meaning that the regulation does not cover the transfer of any conventional or light weapons to another country with the excuse of going to affect with the defense allegiance. The original draft did include all type of armament transfer, but after various modifications such transfer was specified as sales, excluding the arms loaned, bartered or given as gifts or as an “aid” package. Regarding this issue the Control Arms showed its concern on the lack of body and real regulation in the arms trading system, “There is nothing to prevent States classifying all of their

international arms trading operations as ‘defense cooperation agreements’ thereby circumventing the treaty’s provisions.”. Even licensed production agreements are exempt from the treaty, leaving the opportunity for arms companies’ proceed with armament manufacture avoiding the possible embargoing.



Guiding Questions:

1. Has your country signed or ratified the ATT? Why?
2. What are the positive and negative aspects of the ATT from your countries perspective?
3. How could you modify or adjust the treaty to make it optimal for all the countries?

Reference Links:

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/conventions/att/>

<http://thearmstradetreaty.org/index.php/en/>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/arms-trade-treaty>

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/att>