

*Evaluating and revising regulatory
systems of arms trade*

Committee Guide

Special Conference



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1. Personal Introduction

Honorable Ladies and Gentleman, my fellow Delegates,

It is my utmost honor to welcome you to this year's OLMUN as a President of the Special Conference.

I am Ole Halfter, eighteen years old and live in Halle (Saale) in the east of Germany.

This is my third year in the world of MUNs. At the beginning I started as a delegate of Namibia at my own school's MUN. I was fascinated by the whole conference so I became the delegate of the Russian Federation in the SpC of OLMUN 2013. After participating at several MUNs, I was looking for new challenges. So I became the President of the Special Conference the following year. This year's conference is going to be my fourth time chairing and I hope that we will have an unforgettable MUN together.

Of course, my life is not just about MUNs. In October I have started my first semester studying Jura in Halle. Besides studying I enjoy playing soccer or basketball with my friends, reading books or listening to music. But my favorite sport is still dancing. I am dancing for more than five years and still love standing on the dance floor.

Something special, that you might find interesting: I am coffee-junkie! Just bring me a Vanilla Latte Macchiato or any other kind of coffee and I will establish an unbreakable friendship with you.

I'm really looking forward to see you in June.

Yours sincerely,

Ole Halfter

Greetings, delegates!

My name is Ian Klatzco, and I'm very excited to be staffing OLMUN this year. I attended last year as a delegate, and liked it so much I decided to come back again!

A little bit about me — I'm eighteen and from Chicago, Illinois. I've done Model UN for about three years now, and I've attended eighteen conferences in that short span of time. I just finished my last year of high school and will be attending the University of Illinois in the fall to study computer engineering.

I'm very fond of science fiction books, movies, and games, and will happily chat with you on any of those topics. Please don't be afraid to strike up regular conversation outside of committee sessions!

I started Model UN as a timid little sophomore, afraid to speak, but grew to enjoy it so much that I now enjoy talking in front of large groups of people (and making a fool of myself at times :). I think it's a wonderful activity that has taught me much in the way of international issues, people in other countries, and how to interact with other people. In a word, politics.

I'm very happy to see that you are all interested in this wonderful activity, and in learning more about those who share this world with us, and the importance of treating everyone with respect.

I look forward to meeting you all at the conference, and wish you the best in your preparation and debate.

Yours in diplomacy,

Ian Klatzco.

2. About the Special Conference

The Special Conference independently defines topics and issues on its agenda. In contrast to UNEP or HRC, the Special Conference is not limited to any thematic frame. Therefore many diverse fields of international politics are discussed in the Special Conference.

Peacekeeping missions, piracy, Millennium Development Goals and oil-conflicts in Africa are good examples for the diversity of the Special Conference.



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The issue of "Evaluating and revising regulatory systems of arms exports" will be on this year's agenda.

As the world sees itself being confronted with many terrorist organizations, pirates or totalitarian governments, the question arises whether the regulatory system of arms exports is sufficient enough for preventing these groups from obtaining weapons.

The question is how we can improve regulatory systems to target all issues of arms exports. The different interests and views of all countries will hopefully come together and lead into very interesting debates and resolutions.

3. Historical Background

Everywhere around the world, thousands of innocent people die because of armed crime. The devastating impact of all forms of armed violence is apparent for all to see.

Schools are closed, people become refugees, governments and communities are unable to act, a state's investment and economy decrease and life in the affected areas becomes insecure.

Furthermore, spending on arms can divert other funds from public and education or health-care systems cannot be improved, especially when this spending takes place without accountability and transparency. On the contrary, it can cause corruption which leads into a deeper social, economic and political crisis. Even the achievement of international goals and national development can be affected in a negative way.

¹ copyright by Phillip Tüngler

Actually, international arms-transfers should strengthen the capacity of military, security and police forces in order to protect citizens from conflicts and crimes so that a socioeconomic development is assured. This protection is not only given by using these weapons but the presence of them also acts as a deterrent. For these reasons arms transfers are sometimes necessary for securing areas. Also, the economy of some states strongly depends on manufacturing arms. As a consequence arms-transfers contribute to the development of states in many different ways.

But very often, the transfer of conventional arms impairs these developments when they contribute to armed crime, conflicts or serious violations of human rights. In addition, unaccountable spending on arms might lead to corrupt practices.

Sometimes, traded weapons are used against the own population by the government. The sellers' commercial striving is covered by the peaceful intention of securing peace and stability. Whether these weapons serve their purpose or not is often not discussed in public until the sold weapons were supposedly involved in armed crimes.

Finally the worst problem of arms-transfers is the delivery of weapons to "wrong" people (those they were not intended for) so that civil wars are fuelled.

This is why more effective and responsible regulations of the international arms trade are needed to ensure that conventional arms are used to achieve security and not to commit crimes against human rights or humanity.²

For many politicians trading weapons to other governments is a lucrative deal. Every State is inclined to increase its budget. The more weapons are sold the more taxations are made. As a consequence parliaments often agree, if an agreement is needed, to sell weapons. Of Course all weapons are for fighting against crimes, Human Rights and terrorism and in many cases they serve their purpose. But nevertheless there are some examples we might wonder about the politician's long-sightedness or the lobbyist's power.

a) Falkland war in 1982:

The military of Argentina fought against the British army. Due to trades with Western countries Argentina owned modern warships and combat aircrafts, from Germany and France, for instance. These modern weapons were the reasons for many losses on the British side. Some say that the trade of arms to Argentina contributed greatly to the start of the war.

² <http://sites/www.oxfam.orgwww.oxfam.org/files/tb-practical-guide-arms-trade-decisions-apr09.pdf>;
retrieved January 17, 2015 15:25

b) Afghanistan war:

After the invasion of the Russian Federation in Afghanistan (1979), the USA traded arms to the Taliban and other rebels. These groups fought against the USSR, but soon they also started to fight against the USA and their partners with the same weapons which were actually traded for fighting against the USSR.

These two examples and the latest acts of the Islamic State (IS) show us that there is still a lot to be done concerning the regulation of arms trade.



Caricature: the ship's name is "exports"; the caption reads "countermovement"³

3. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

*"Every day, and everywhere, people are affected by side effects of irresponsible arms transfers. [...] As there is currently no comprehensive internationally binding instrument available to provide an agreed regulatory framework for this activity, the EU welcomes the growing support, in all parts of the world, for an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)."*⁴

In December 2006, the General Assembly passed Resolution 61/89. This resolution demands that the Secretary General collect the opinion of every member state concerning binding rules for import, export and trading arms.

³ copyright by Cicero Magazin "Karikatur Gegenbewegung" June 13, 2013

⁴ statement by H.E. Mr. Kari Kahiluoto; October 12, 2006

Finally on April 2, 2013, the General Assembly voted on the ATT. With 154 votes in favor, 23 abstentions and three votes against, the ATT was passed by the General Assembly. Only Iran, Syria and DPR Korea voted against the ATT. After having been ratified by more than fifty UN-member-states, the ATT entered into force on December 24, 2014.

3.1 Principles of the ATT

The ATT is based on principles which are derived from articles of the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore the ATT has to act in accordance with the following points:

- the right of all states to individual or collective self-defense (Article 51)
- international disputes have to safeguard international peace and security and also justice (Article 2 III)
- States have to refrain from using force against territorial integrity or political independence of any State (Article 2 IV)
- States have to acknowledge the domestic jurisdiction of any State (Article 2 VII)
- States have to guarantee international humanitarian law, inter alia, the Geneva Convention 1949, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- the responsibility of any State to establish an effective regulatory system for the international trade in conventional arms
- arms trade will not be abolished but regulated

3.2 Problems of the ATT

As mentioned above, the ATT gives every single state the responsibility to develop its own rules for regulating arms trades. This makes it more difficult to establish an international regulatory system.

One of the biggest problems might be the different values and views which need to be brought on a common consent.

It is difficult to implement the collective interests in a more regulated arms trade into the national sovereignty and the right to self-defense.

Furthermore, it is not clear who would be responsible for pushing these rules through or who would be responsible if the rules are broken.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's your aim to solve these problems and to form a system which regulates arms trades in the future.