

*Tackling the International Illicit Trade
of Arms*

Committee Guide

First Committee of the General Assembly



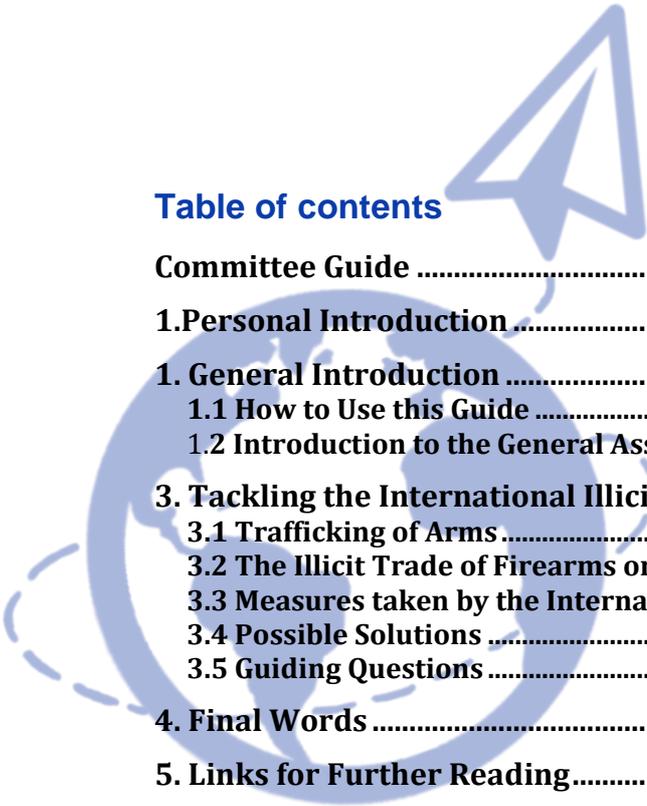


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1. Personal Introduction

Dear delegates of the GA1st committee,

My name is Keno Hillmer, I'm 18 years old and I'm very pleased to be chairing this year's GA1st committee at OLMUN 2019 with Isabella and Tilman. When you'll be sitting at our venue, I will already have graduated from Gymnasium Eversten Oldenburg. I had a really great time in school. But I digress... So, I'm very eager in finding solutions to problems and granting wishes of students from Oldenburg in our City Student Council. If I don't have too much to do in my free time, I'll be going to the gym, listening to different kinds of music or doing something fun with my friends. I also like to watch Netflix but honestly, who doesn't? Last year, I chaired the GA3rd and I liked it so much that, against the recommendation of many other chair colleagues, I decided to chair a committee this size in 2019 again. Why? Because the higher the number of people, the more fun we're going to have. Quick math, right? But jokes aside, what I'm extraordinarily happy about, is that we are going to be able to discuss the illicit trade of arms - one of the most urgent and interesting problems worldwide.

For me, MUN combines three important attitudes: getting to know other people around the globe, travelling and dealing with political, economic and social questions. As there will probably be a lot of you who participate for the first time, I would like to emphasize the opportunity to really contribute to discussions and resolutions. If you are well prepared, you will easily be able to participate in hot debates to convey your delegation's point of view. I'm very confident that we will have a lot of fruitful debates!

I'm sincerely looking forward to meeting all of you very soon,

Keno Hillmer

Dear delegates of the GA1st committee,

I am very excited to be chairing the General Assembly's 1st committee this year! My name is Isabella von Jan and I am 18 years old. At the moment I am doing my Abitur at the Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium in Gifhorn (near Wolfsburg, I drive a VW, don't judge). My hobbies are playing tennis and I enjoy skiing and snowboarding. Next year I am hoping to go to University to study Artificial Intelligence or something similar. In the past, I have attended six conferences as a delegate, and this will be my first one chairing. I am eager to attend an OLMUN conference from a different perspective and hearing all of your fruitful debates! Seeing as a lot of you will be first-timers, I would like to encourage you all to feel free to give speeches and actively participate in the debate. Especially if you have conducted enough research, I am confident that you will be able step out of your comfort zone and help to develop a superb resolution we are all willing to pass.



Despite debating this very serious and relevant issue, don't forget to have fun and make lots of new friends!

I am looking forward to meeting all of you soon in a hopefully very friendly and productive environment.

Isabella von Jan

Hi, my name is Tilman Holube and I welcome you to the General Assembly's First Committee of OLMUN 2019. I'm 17 years old and attending the 12th grade of the vocational grammar school for technology and design. Being a delegate at last year's conference for my first time convinced myself to apply for a chair position this year. As a chair I hope to improve your experience of OLMUN and motivate you to learn more about international politics. In my free time I like to meet up with friends and to program different things like apps for my smartphone. In general, I'm interested in maths, physics, and all kind of technical stuff. Even if you participate for your first time in a MUN, just have fun and don't be afraid to say something and enrich the discussion.

I hope to see you at the conference, at least to try to make the world a little better.

Tilman Holube

1. General Introduction

Honorable delegates of the General Assembly's First committee, we are glad to welcome you to Oldenburg and we are looking forward to having some interesting debates. You all know that it is hard to debate when you do not have any information about the topic you are debating about. That is why we made this committee guide: To give you guidelines for your research and provide you with some general information. In order to be fully prepared we are also advising you to read the rules of procedure, which can be found on the OLMUN website, even though we are going to help you to understand how the OLMUN works during our time together. Another advice would be to not only do your research on your own country, but also concentrate on possible allies and supporters for the policy of your country. Furthermore, you will find links at the end of the guide that will help you to do your research.

1.1 How to Use this Guide

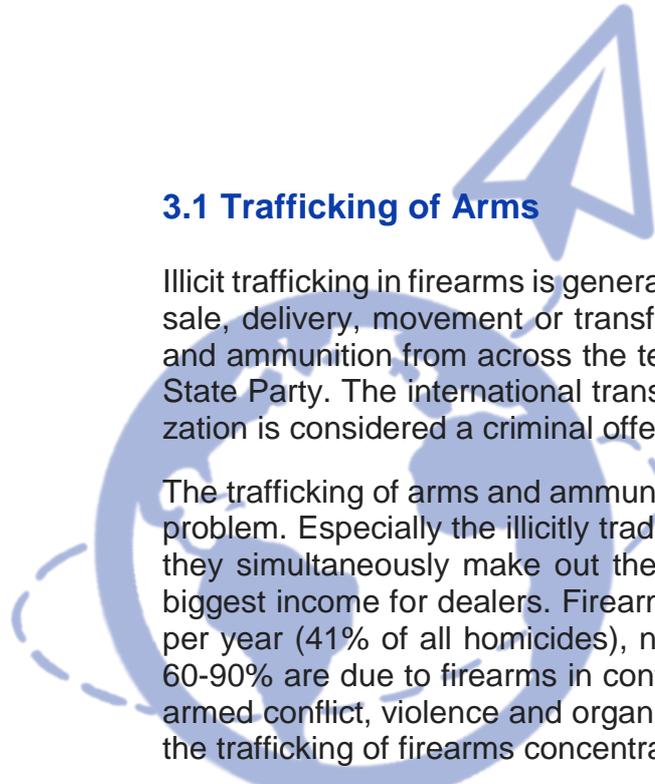
Even though this guide is supposed to help you to get started on your research, your research should not only consist of the information which is given in the guide. Try to find other information about your country's past, present, cultural factors, political structure, you name it... Another important thing to remember is that your opinion might not be similar to your country's opinion. For the sake of the debates it is necessary that you stick to your country's policy. Furthermore, we ask you to write a policy statement for your country and a resolution that you are supposed to send to us by June 9th. If you have problems formulating one of these, you will be able to find more detailed information to either one in the official hand book.

1.2 Introduction to the General Assembly's First Committee

The First Committee of the General Assembly was created along with five other subcommittees at the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. In general, the committee deals with international disarmament and security problems. Therefore, it is known as the "Disarmament and Security Committee" or DISEC. Since its founding, the committees name and priorities changed but it has always discussed international security issues. Today the committee deals with Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones in Africa and the Middle East, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and of course the general and complete disarmament. The General Assembly First committee is made up of all member states of the United Nations. This year the GA 1st will be simulated the third time at OLMUN and we're going to discuss "Tackling the International Illicit Trade of Arms".

3. Tackling the International Illicit Trade of Arms

This part of the committee guide ought to give you a general overview of the topic and past actions by the international community.



3.1 Trafficking of Arms

Illicit trafficking in firearms is generally defined as the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components, and ammunition from across the territory of one State Party to that of another State Party. The international transfer of firearms without government authorization is considered a criminal offense.

The trafficking of arms and ammunition is both a multidimensional and a global problem. Especially the illicitly traded firearms are hard to track or identify and they simultaneously make out the majority of trafficked arms generating the biggest income for dealers. Firearms account to an estimated 180,000 deaths per year (41% of all homicides), not including the 100,000+ deaths, of which 60-90% are due to firearms in conflict zones. But especially in these zones of armed conflict, violence and organized crime, where the most deaths occur, is the trafficking of firearms concentrated.

Firearms are present in most violent crimes and dramatically increase the power of organized crime groups, such as drug cartels and terrorist groups (approximately a half of the terrorist attacks are conducted with small arms), further enhancing the armed conflict, violence and organized crime.

What makes the tracking and identification of small arms and light weapons so complicated, is that firearms are used legitimately in the military, the law enforcement and in most countries for sporting and recreational uses and are therefore increasing the complexity of zeroing out illegal weapons. Further complicating the matter, arms are mostly manufactured licitly, but traded both licitly and illicitly, sometimes even with modifications, making the weapons more dangerous to all involved parties.

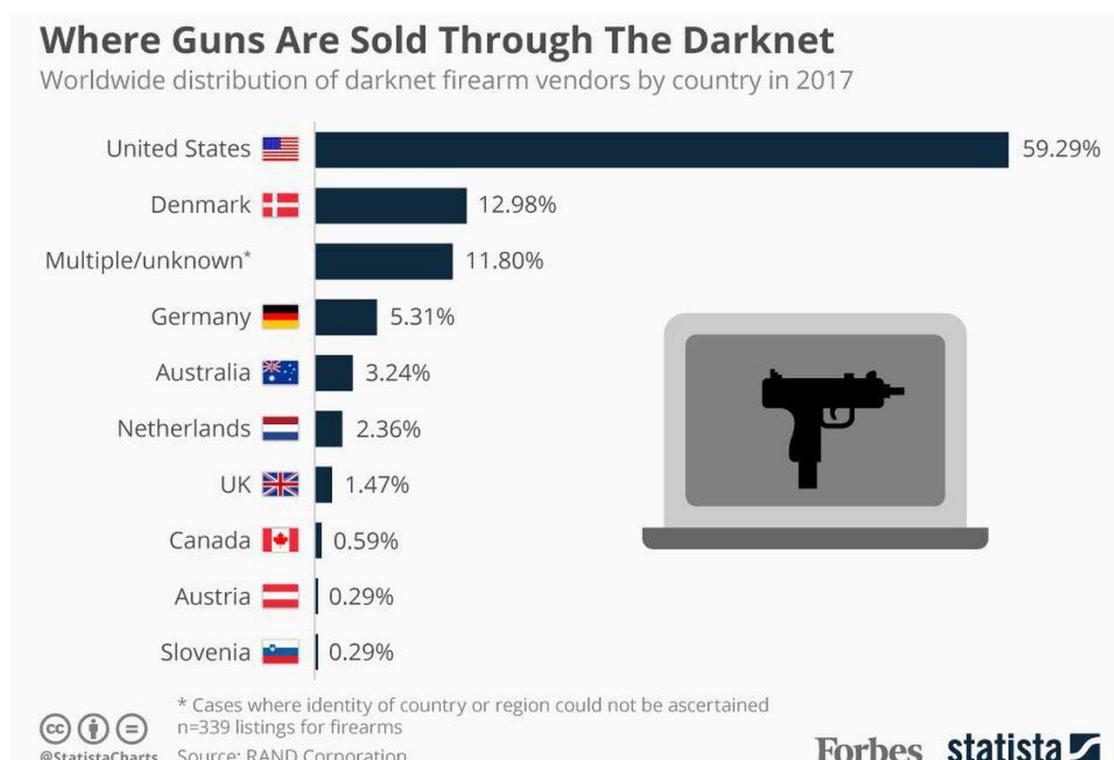
Unlike other trafficked goods such as drugs, arms are not a consumable, but durable. Many of the trafficked arms e.g. date back to the era of the cold war, where the no longer needed weapons became available to government officials or sometimes simply the highest bidder. Consequently, the concentrated areas of the trafficking of arms shifts along with the regions descending into crisis, helping to escalate precisely the most unstable regions.

3.2 The Illicit Trade of Firearms on the Dark Web

All over the world, there is an ongoing debate over the extent to which online black markets on the so-called 'dark web' facilitate the sale of firearms, weapons, explosives and banned digital materials. Often, unconfirmed public details emerge in the media, e.g. following the 2016 Munich shooting, linking the guns used in the attack to vendors on dark web 'cryptomarkets'. A cryptomarket is defined as a marketplace that hosts multiple sellers or vendors, provides participants with anonymity via its location on the dark web and use of cryptocurrencies for payment. Anonymity is particularly provided through the use of cryptocurrencies as to a lack of traceability. In general, there has always been very little knowledge about the sale of weapons on cryptomarkets. It is very common that authorities are not able to comprehend and reconstruct the criminal act.

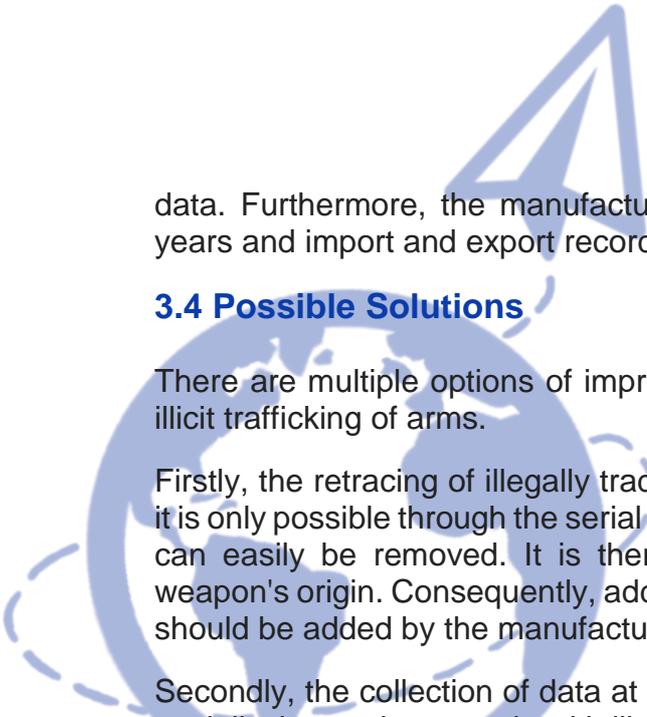
Media have also reported that the dark web may have been involved in the November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, although this has not been confirmed by public authorities.

In the absence of any official public statement by the authorities, there is still a lot of uncertainty on how the November 2015 terrorist attackers gained access to the assault rifles that were used. One theory emerged two weeks after the attacks, on 27 November 2015, when a man was arrested in Germany on suspicion of conducting illegal arms trafficking on the dark web, including non-lethal weapons converted to fire live ammunition. On the same day the German newspaper *Bild*, on the basis of investigative documentation it claimed to possess, reported that the same dealer sold, on 6 November, the four assault rifles that were used in the attacks. This theory, which was picked up and rapidly distributed by several international news agencies and media outlets, has yet to be confirmed by relevant authorities and remains, to date, an unconfirmed conjecture. However, whether or not this will be confirmed in relation to Paris, this case highlighted the possibility of the dark web being used to procure weapons. There is no doubt that these dangers concern the whole world, as you can see in the chart down below.



3.3 Measures taken by the International Community

In 2005, the international tracing instrument was adopted, which is calling to all countries for definite tracking methods and procedures to collect data. This data should be shared with every other country to simplify finding gaps in the tracking and thus seizing illegal dealers. But this instrument just keeps records on small arms and light weapons. And it's still a national choice how to collect the



data. Furthermore, the manufacturing records just have to be saved for 30 years and import and export records for only 20 years.

3.4 Possible Solutions

There are multiple options of improving the international safety regarding the illicit trafficking of arms.

Firstly, the retracing of illegally traded weapons is problematic. At the moment it is only possible through the serial numbers imprinted upon the weapons which can easily be removed. It is therefore mostly impossible to determine the weapon's origin. Consequently, additional possibilities of retracing the weapons should be added by the manufacturers.

Secondly, the collection of data at the moment is insufficient. Many states, especially those who struggle with illegal arms trade, are neither tracking national arms trafficking within their states, nor do they control their borders for illicit arms trade. The necessary data can be collected through e.g. more frequent and stricter border controls or close cooperation with manufacturers. But even if this data is collected, it is mostly only saved at the regional border crossing points, further complicating the tracking of illicit trade on a transnational level. Therefore, an international database, in which every state collects the gathered data, is needed, where further internationally agreed terms, definitions and reporting procedures are collected.

Thirdly, it is essential to avoid arms and ammunition being exported into areas of armed conflict or violence in the first place, which could be avoided through member states establishing and maintaining a national export control system. This export control system must enforce laws, regulations and administrative procedures to control and regulate the export of conventional arms to make sure that arms are not being sold into unstable areas or to morally questionable parties or persons.

Generally, more transparency is needed in the legal trade of arms, in order to identify when arms are being diverted from licit trade.

In addition, gun theft is globally increasing both from private persons and national security forces. Most of these weapons are not reported, making the recovery of these weapons difficult to impossible. These misplaced or stolen firearms amount to well over a million arms per year which then can be trafficked. Through proper data collection, obligatory reporting of such incidents and necessary consequences for all parties, gun theft will not be completely eradicated but will become manageable.

In general, the trafficking of arms is almost always transnational, meaning that lasting solutions can only be achieved on an international level with close cooperation between states importing and exporting arms. Organizations such as INTERPOL have already made great strides when it comes to data collection, but without international cooperation the issue cannot be resolved.

3.5 Guiding Questions

- Does your country export/import a large number of firearms? What is the crime rate like?
- Is your country considered a hot spot for firearm productions?
- What measures has your country taken to stop illicit national and transnational trade of arms?
- Does your country even want to reduce the number of illicit traded arms?

For further research, it can be very beneficial to also concentrate on the following:

- Domestic and international tracing of seized firearms
- Trafficking routes
- Modus operandi and modes of transportation
- Offenses associated with reported seizures

4. Final Words

This is a Committee Guide which means it should guide you, help you to familiarize yourself with the topic and motivate you to further learn about international illicit trade of arms. Its purpose is not to limit your research to this guide, since your resolutions should be as diverse as possible in the end! Please remember:

- Begin your research in time and don't wait until the last minute because understanding the topic and its complexity is essential for you to write a resolution, a policy statement and taking part in debate and in lobbying processes
- Use a variety of sources for your research! Be sure not to use just one single source for your whole resolution. Diversity in research is important, in order to reach a well-thought-out resolution with useful and debatable points. In addition, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on the topic. Also, use the links inside this guide!
- At a MUN conference you are not required to elaborate your personal opinion on the topic, but the opinion that your country represents. Therefore, you need to find out every detail about the situation in your country
- When researching the position of your country, look for various measures it has or has not taken yet, the existing programs and what possible new measures you as a representative of your country could introduce
- Elaborate a comprehensible, realistic resolution considering the position of your country! Of course, this resolution needs to be realistic consider-

ing that you are a representative of an existing country with existing positions. Within this frame, you need to find a self-contained solution, which you can present in our committee

Furthermore, we want to see some of your research results before the conference, since we don't want anyone to be unprepared in our committee. Because of this, we would like you to send us a **policy statement** and a **draft resolution** of your country until **May 28th 2019**. Keep in mind that these dates are the latest, so we advise you to send us these documents earlier in advance. For those of you, who do not know how to write a policy statement or a resolution, please look it up in the Official OLMUN 2019 Handbook. If you have any further questions, whether they concern preparation, the conference or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us and consult us: ga1@olmun.org or ga1st@olmun.org

Sincerely yours,
Keno, Isabella and Tilman

5. Links for Further Reading

<https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>

https://www.unodc.org/documents/firearms-protocol/UNODC_Study_on_Firearms_WEB.pdf

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-3/key-issues/firearms-trafficking.html>

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-firearms_en

<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2013/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2013-Prelims-Intro-EN.pdf>

