

SIMULATION COMMITTEE GUIDE

DISEC



DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Daniela Ramírez & David Naranjo
Updated by: Benjamín Quintero and Mariana Valencia

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Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to CCBMUN XXI! Before we start, we would like to express our gratitude to all of you for participating in the twenty-first edition of the CCBMUN, a massive undertaking. We are Mariana Valencia and Benjamin Quintero, and we are proud and thrilled to be your presidents during this model. During the next few days, you and your fellow delegates will share in debate, discussion, dialogue, resolution writing, and a LOT of partisan bickering. Remember to maintain your delegation's interests; however, also keep in mind the committee's objective of global disarmament and ensuring international security. Get to know your country, the topics and your fellow delegates. Don't forget to speak with confidence and security, and be willing to cooperate.

For our part, we plan on using everything we have learned from our past MUNs to offer an enriching model with new learning opportunities, and to make sure this committee is always active, engaging, and home to thoughtful discourse. Both topics were designed to stimulate debate and diplomatic thinking.

From our time as delegates we know first-hand the anticipation and stress that one can face on the eve of the model, and hope that this guide, among other resources, will be able to ease this anxiety and to help you both to be and to feel prepared. While preparation for this model can be gruelling and often time consuming, we also know that once the day of the model arrives, all your hard work will pay off. Being able to participate in a replica of a world changing organisation with a global influence not only allows for an exhilarating and exciting experience, but also gives you a glimpse of real life politics and diplomacy.

We hope to be able to help you make the most of this model. This will be our first model as presidents; we are really excited to meet you all! Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, difficulties or are simply curious about some aspect of the topics or model. :)

Good luck at the model!

Benjamin and Mariana (DISEC Chair)

disec@cali.edu.co



Simulation topic: *The Control Of Small Arms And Light Weapons For Non-State Actors*

I. History/Context

Weapons have existed as long as humans have and played a significant role in the initial survival of the species. However as time passes by they have begun to take a more detrimental place in human history and rather than being used for purposes of protection from external dangers and obtaining food resources, humans have employed them to harm other human individuals. Later in history, the civilian population would gain access to arms to be used against oppressive governments resulting in what we know today as independence movements, revolutions and coups of state. It was for this reason that many emerging nations have recognized the importance of the civilian population having access to firearms.

An excellent example of this is the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America issued on December 15, 1791. In its Amendment number two, it declares the right to bear arms. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" (U.S. Constitution, 1791). This amendment is related to the militias formed by American revolutionaries during the War of Independence, in which they played a fundamental role in defeating the British troops. With the triumph of independence, the country developed a new identity in which the population did not consider the role of an army under the command of the state that would have the potential to repress the people. It was from this perspective that the best way to protect the population was to allow civilians to bear arms and, if necessary, to organise themselves into militias. This amendment of the U.S. Constitution still prevails today, but in spite of this, and as the years went by, an army was created, which finally fulfilled the role of protecting civilians.

Although nations such as the United States had legalised the carrying of guns by civilians, many other nations considered this act counterproductive; therefore, gun contraband began to be seen for the first time in history. One of the most important examples in history took place in Mexico. From 1994 to 1996, with the formation of the Zapatista National Liberation and Popular Revolutionary Armies, the import and illegal entry of weapons increased exponentially, mainly from



the United States, making Mexico the new arms paradise. Many of these weapons over time have ended up in the hands of the country's cartels and gangs.

The most important events related to the free use of guns date back as far as 1764, where the first school massacre in the United States is recorded. This was a mass murder provoked by Native Americans in protest. Since then, numerous attacks by students on their teachers have been recorded. In 1889, the first mass shooting occurred in a school in the United States, where numerous students were wounded. Since then, this type of event continues to happen around the world, causing hundreds of deaths.

[Annex to timeline of the world's most relevant school shootings from 1996 to 2019](#)

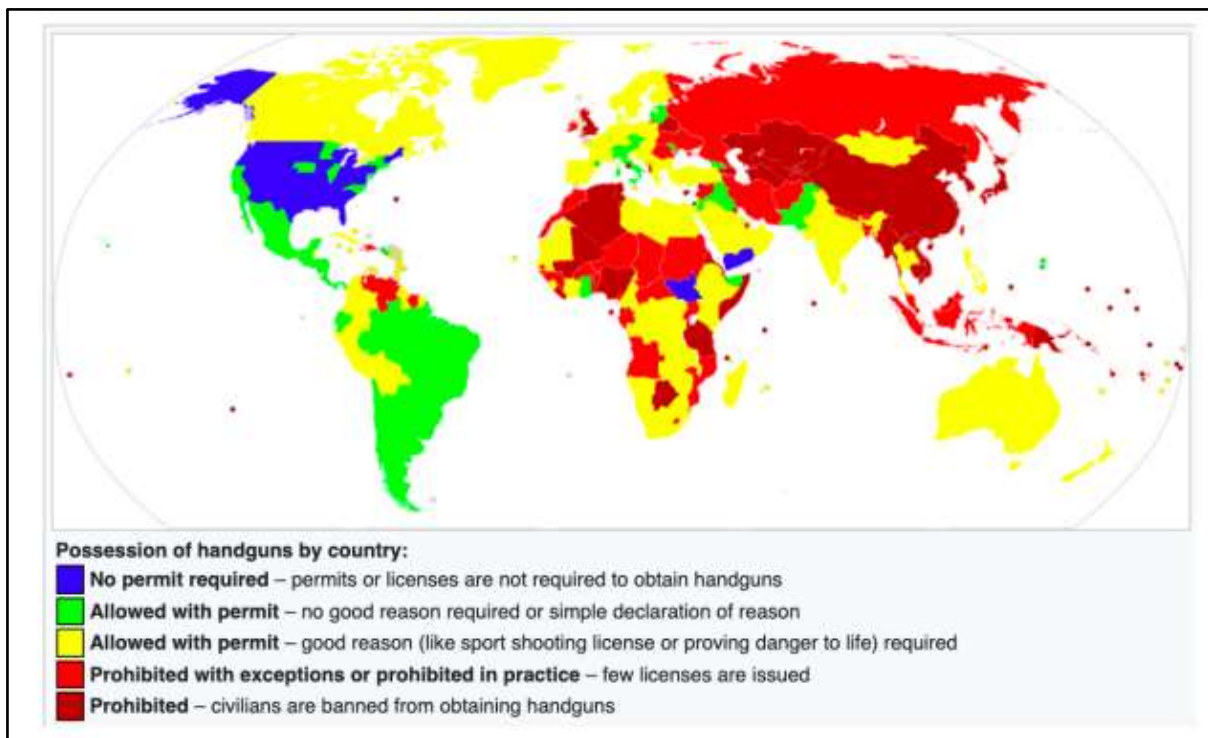
In the attached annex, you can see a timeline of all mass shootings in schools around the world from 1996 to 2019. This list shows a total of 138 incidents, not including minor shootings. All of these incidents were the result of easy access to firearms, including access given to minors.

II. Current Situation

Annually, between 700,000 and 900,000 small guns and light weapons are created globally, with over 875 million in circulation. This suggests that there is more than one light weapon in circulation for every eight individuals on the planet. As a result, the spread of small arms and light weapons is a global issue that affects all countries, regardless of geopolitics or economic status. Certain countries play varied roles in the legal and illicit small arms and light weapons markets: some have major production enterprises, others specialise in marketing and transporting them, while certain conflict-ridden countries generate demand for small arms and light weapons. As a result, solutions to this problem must be centred on fighting it effectively while taking into consideration these various realities. It is believed that the illicit trade accounts for between 40% and 60% of the global market for small guns and light weapons. However, given that a portion of authorised weapons manufacture is diverted to the illegal market, this amount might be substantially higher. Because they are compact and easy to transport, these weapons are highly appealing to the clandestine trafficking industry. Violence is prevalent in the countries with the highest proportion of illicit weapons, creating a vicious circle: political, social, ethnic, or religious conflicts generate a demand

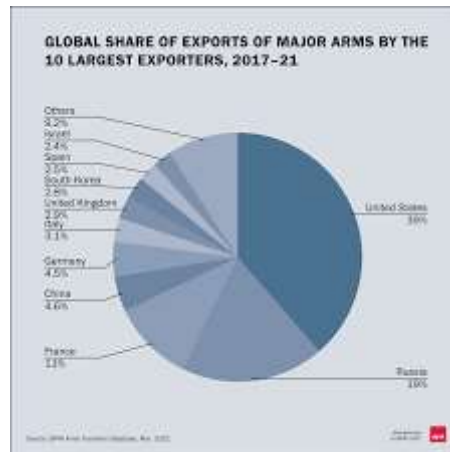
for weapons, which leads to violent acts, and these violent acts, in turn, lead to a larger conflict that necessitates more weapons. According to the following map, countries like the United States, Yemen and Uganda do not require a permit to obtain guns. Either way, in countries such as Mexico and Guatemala it is quite easy to obtain a gun through a permit.

Figure 1: This figure presents the right to have handguns around the world and is presented to support the text



Although most of the countries have laws or regulations against it, there is a high rate of guns and other armaments throughout all countries. This shows the low effectiveness of regulations that exist today. This is why it is considered urgent to address the disarmament of non-state actors. A brief example is the constant shootings in the USA which has alarming statistics. “The Gun Violence Archive has counted at least 356 mass shootings so far this year, through the first three weeks of July. Of those shootings, 16 involved four or more fatalities, The group recorded 692 mass shootings last year, with 28 involving four or more fatalities.” according to New York's time New York Times. It is also important to understand the exports of weapons, here is a chart to analyse. Here, we can observe that countries such as the United States, Russia, France, China and Germany are the major exporters of arms and weapons. But where do these weapons go?

Figure 2: This figure presents the nations that exports the most major arms and is presented to support the text In Latin America, as many as two thousand guns cross the border daily between the United States and Mexico, an issue which has greatly contributed to increases in gun violence and gang violence throughout the continent.



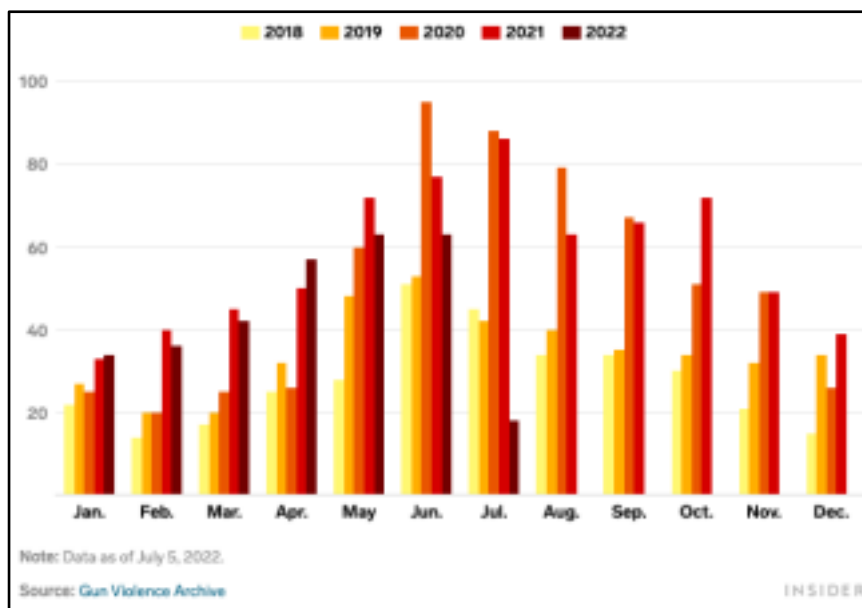
It is one of the most impacted continents and the world's most violent area, thanks in large part to the "iron river" of firearms streaming from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean. Criminals in the United States may easily obtain firearms, and a known criminal may easily pay someone, a "straw buyer", to buy a firearm for them. The criminal can even acquire weapons from private vendors who do not have to conduct background checks; known criminals and even terrorists face no barriers.

Africa also contributes significantly to the problem of illegal small arms trafficking due to the frequency of hostilities. Around 30 million weapons are now in circulation throughout Africa. The majority of guns are obtained from private gun owners whose firearms have been lost or stolen, but many others are obtained via governmental institutions (police, military, and other government departments). Because of the lack of oversight, many losses and thefts go unrecorded. The South African government, for example, has taken efforts to limit the supply of illicit weapons via its airfields and porous borders.

Mass shootings by legal and illegal weapons have occurred on a large scale through the last decade, especially in countries in which it is a right to own a firearm. The clearest example is The United

States; since the beginning of 2022, the Gun Violence Archive, a non-profit organisation that monitors shootings in the United States, has reported at least 314 mass shootings. According to the Archive, gun violence has killed a total of 22,000 individuals in the United States this year. The first weekend of June saw 13 mass killings, less than 2 weeks

Figure 3: This figure compares the number of mass shootings in the United States of America from 2018 to present and is presented to support the text.



after a shooter killed 19 children plus two teachers at a school in Uvalde, Texas, which was the bloodiest gun massacre after Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. In comparison to other nations, the United States has significantly laxer firearm restrictions and rules – the federal right to own a handgun is even written into the Law via the 2nd Amendment. As a consequence, firearms are now one of the main causes of mortality for Americans of all ages, as well as the biggest cause of death for children under the age of 18, according to Giffords Law Center.

In order to reduce the rates of arms trafficking, legislation must be strengthened and standardised on the production, transfer and accumulation of small arms and light weapons. One of the big problems is the variety of regulation of small arms, especially in the face of a trade that implies a constant transfer between different countries. The Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) encourages the adoption of a set of global principles for arms transfers, based on international law,

to close the legal outlets exploited by arms dealers. This would lead, in theory, to a legal instrument to limit arms traffickers, wherever they operate. In addition, coordination mechanisms must be established, especially between neighbouring countries, to strengthen border controls and to facilitate the arrest and punishment of offenders in the illicit arms trade. Likewise, nations must investigate and punish political dishonesty, complicity and negligence at border checkpoints, the main entrance for illegal weapons.

Finally, it is necessary to promote accountability for imports and exports of light weapons in order to strengthen the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which was created in 1992 to monitor the production and transfer of arms from the legal trade. Other initiatives that aim to have a registry of weapons in the international market could also be promoted. Likewise, the UN has recommended the effective destruction of surplus weapons seized, in order to reduce the circulation of weapons and prevent them from passing from formal trade to illicit trade.

III. Key points of the debate

- Legal and illegal carriage of weapons by civilians
- The consequences of gun carrying by civilians
- Illegal arms traffic across borders
- Measures to control the carrying of weapons by civilians
- Measures to control illegal arms trafficking
- Control measures against illegally armed groups

IV. Guiding questions

1. Are there any illegally armed groups in your nation? If so, which ones are the most concerning?
2. What are the laws regarding the carrying of firearms by civilians in your nation?
3. What kinds of restrictions are in place on the sale, marketing and use of conventional weapons in your nation?

4. What protocols or laws have been made to reduce the rates of death by small firearms in your country?
5. Have there been any recent shootings carried by civilians in your nation?
6. What security measures should Member States take to prevent conventional, legal weapons getting into the hands of armed criminal groups?

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Figure 1:

Countries and States where long guns and handguns are legal to own. (2021, July 22). MAPPORN. https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/opc6mz/countries_and_states_where_long_guns_and_handguns/

Figure 2:

The world's largest arms and weapons exporters. (2022, March 15). MARCA. <https://www.marca.com/en/lifestyle/world-news/2022/03/15/6230e5de46163fbf438b45eb.html>

Figure 3:

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