# **General Assembly First Committee**

On September 18, 2012, the 67th session of the General Assembly officially opened in New York at the UN Headquarters. Following the plenary session and general debate, the General Assembly First Committee convened between October 8 and November 7, and was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Ambassador Desra Percaya.<sup>1</sup> The First Committee had 17 topics related to disarmament on its agenda as allocated by the General Assembly Plenary, including the topic of "General and complete disarmament."<sup>2</sup> The First Committee's meetings were divided into seven clusters of topics: nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, disarmament aspects of outer space, conventional weapons, regional disarmament and security, other disarmament measures and international security, and the disarmament machinery.<sup>3</sup>

Following the conclusion of debate by the First Committee, 53 draft resolutions and six draft decisions were recommended to the General Assembly Plenary body.<sup>4</sup> Of these, 52 resolutions were ultimately adopted, 29 of them without a vote.<sup>5</sup> Of particular note is the discussion on agenda item 94(b), which focuses on the arms trade treaty.<sup>6</sup> On this topic, the committee adopted resolution 67/234 on "The arms trade treaty," with a vote of 133 in favor, none against and 17 abstentions.<sup>7</sup> The resolution scheduled a second treaty negotiation conference to be held from March 18 to 28, 2013, and the General Assembly will remain seized of the matter until a report from the conference becomes available.8

#### Nuclear Weapons

Much of the debate in the First Committee centered around the decades-old commitment to nuclear disarmament that has not seen significant advances in years.<sup>9</sup> In efforts to stimulate progress, the Committee generated 16 draft texts relating to nuclear weapons, tests, and materials.<sup>10</sup> The most progressive of those documents calls for a High-Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament to be convened for one day on September 26, 2013.<sup>11</sup> Such an action was opposed by some nuclear weapons-possessing states, primarily on the basis that it may detract from efforts undertaken through the Conference on Disarmament and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); however, the draft resolution was accepted with 165 votes in favor, no votes against, and 5 abstentions.<sup>12</sup>

#### Conventional Weapons

In addition to the decision to assemble another Arms Trade Treaty negotiation conference in March 2013, the First Committee also renewed commitments to providing "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them," accepting the draft resolution without a vote.<sup>13</sup> Other conventional weapons-related draft resolutions that were forwarded to the Plenary body included, but are not limited to: illicit brokering activities, transparency in armaments, and confidence-building measures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly First Committee, Official records: 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, 2012, p. 2.

United Nations Department of Public Information, First committee prepares for annual debate with approval of agenda, work programme for sixty-seventh session, 2012.

United Nations Department of Public Information, First Committee, Concluding Session, Sends 59 Draft Texts to General Assembly, Consistent with Its Practice of Voting on Nearly Half, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> UNDPI, First committee prepares for annual debate with approval of agenda, work programme for sixty-seventh session, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UN News Centre, The UN General Assembly's First Committee: disarmament and international security issues, 2012.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolutions:* 67<sup>th</sup> session, 2012.
<sup>6</sup> Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, *Journal of the United Nations*, 2013, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> United Nations Department of Public Information, General assembly concludes main part of session following consensus in fifth committee on member state contributions to regular, peacekeeping budgets, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> United Nations General Assembly First Committee, *The arms trade treaty*, 2012, p. 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Reaching Critical Will, First Committee Monitor, 2012, No. 2, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Reaching Critical Will, Draft Resolutions, Voting Results, and Explanations of Vote: First Committee 2012, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly First Committee, High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, 2012, p. 1. <sup>12</sup> United Nations Department of Public Information, First Committee, Concluding Session, Sends 59 Draft Texts to General Assembly, Consistent with Its Practice of Voting on Nearly Half, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> United Nations Department of Public Information, First committee approves series of drafts on which diverse positions converge before tackling raft of more contentious texts next week, 2012.

Due to the expansive mandate of the General Assembly First Committee, these activities represent only a portion of the work that was completed in its most recent session. However, in reviewing the adopted resolutions in detail, delegates will see that the topics under discussion at NMUN-NY 2013 are clearly aligned with the committee's priorities at the United Nations.

#### The Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference

The General Assembly First Committee was created to facilitate discussion and build consensus on issues pertaining to disarmament and international security. The GA First Committee comprises all 193 United Nations Member States. It works closely with the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

**Format:** The General Assembly First Committee is a Resolution Writing Committee. Draft resolutions prepared in and accepted by the First Committee must subsequently be adopted by the General Assembly Plenary to become effective.

**Voting:** In the General Assembly First Committee, each Member State has one vote and it does not allow for special privileges of Member States, such as veto power. Decisions are determined by a majority vote of Member States present for both procedural and substantive matters.

Reaching Critical Will. (2012). Draft Resolutions, Voting Results, and Explanations of Vote: First Committee 2012. Retrieved on January 15, 2013 from: http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga/2012/resolutions

Reaching Critical Will is a nongovernmental organization focused on disarmament issues in the international arena. As part of its mission to inform the public on new developments in disarmament, this organization often elaborates draft texts of UN documents available before the UN does. This specific page not only provides links to the draft version of resolutions forwarded to the GA plenary committee, but also includes sponsor information and voting results in the First Committee, as opposed to the Plenary Committee. Delegates may find this information useful for identifying international initiatives in which their delegation has taken a lead or, through explanations of vote, developing a rationale for opposition to certain resolutions.

Reaching Critical Will. (2012, October 15). Nuclear disarmament. *First Committee Monitor*. 2: 4-5. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from: <u>http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/FCM12/FCM-2012-2.pdf</u>

Reaching Critical Will is a nongovernmental organization focused on disarmament issues in the international arena. The First Committee Monitor is a newsletter that reports timely updates of the committee's proceedings while it is in session, including notable remarks or actions taken by specific Member States. Delegates may use this newsletter to obtain a summary of the committee's daily activities and flow of debate during the 67<sup>th</sup> session. This specific issue was mostly influenced by the nuclear weapons "topic cluster," but also briefly discusses other topics in the First Committee's scope.

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, December 24). *General assembly concludes main part of session following consensus in fifth committee on member state contributions to regular, peacekeeping budgets.* Retrieved on February 4, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11335.doc.htm

The United Nations Department of Public Information issues press releases concerning new developments at the United Nations. These press releases often contain summaries of a committee's proceedings as well as statements by Member States, and can therefore provide delegates with information that is difficult to obtain elsewhere. This particular publication includes the results of voting on the Arms Trade Treaty draft resolution and its amendments, with a list of specific Member States' disposition.

United Nations General Assembly. (2012). *Resolutions:* 67<sup>th</sup> session. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/resolutions.shtml

The United Nations website makes all resolutions produced by its bodies accessible for download, complete with voting results. This specific webpage lists all of the resolutions that were passed by the General Assembly during the 67<sup>th</sup> session and can be a valuable resource for delegates looking for resolutions related to their topics. Because all GA resolutions are adopted by the plenary body, it will be important to take note of the committee in which a resolution was written when choosing references to cite in committee-specific research.

United Nations General Assembly First Committee. (2012, October 18). *High-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament (A/C.1/67/L.19)*. Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from: http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com/2/resolutions/L19.pdf

This draft resolution, ultimately adopted by the plenary committee as resolution 67/39, inspired contentious debate during the First Committee. It was submitted by Members of the Non-Aligned Movement and calls for a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament on September 26, 2013. While not unprecedented, this action drew criticism from several nuclear weapons-possessing Member States, and the tension produced may influence future debate related to nuclear disarmament.

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United Nations General Assembly First Committee. (2012, October 18). *The arms trade treaty* (A/C.1/67/L.11). Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from: <u>http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com/2/resolutions/L11.pdf</u>

United Nations News Center. (2012, December 27). *FEATURE: The UN General Assembly's First Committee: disarmament and international security issues*. Retrieved on January 14, 2012 from: <u>http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/www.un.org/html/h%3Cspan%20class='pullme'%3EThe%20United%20Nati</u> <u>ons,%20partner%20agencies%20and%20local%20authorities%20are%20making%20every%20effort%20to%20pro</u> <u>vide%20the%20necessary%20assistance%20in%20very%20challenging%20circumstances%3C/span%3Ettp://ocha</u> <u>online.un.org/story.asp?NewsID=43849&Cr=disarmament&Cr1=</u>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, November 2). *First committee approves series of drafts on which diverse positions converge before tackling raft of more contentious texts next week*. Retrieved on January 15, 2013 from: <u>http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/gadis3468.doc.htm</u>

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, November 7). *First Committee, Concluding Session, Sends 59 Draft Texts to General Assembly, Consistent with Its Practice of Voting on Nearly Half.* Retrieved on January 14, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/gadis3471.doc.htm

United Nations Department of Public Information. (2012, December 24). *General assembly concludes main part of session following consensus in fifth committee on member state contributions to regular, peacekeeping budgets.* Retrieved on February 4, 2013 from: <u>http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11335.doc.htm</u>

# I. Women, Disarmament, Nonproliferation and Arms Control

The issue of women, disarmament, nonproliferation and arms control is part of the General Assembly First Committee's agenda item 94: general and complete disarmament.<sup>14</sup> On January 4, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/67/48 on Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. This is after the First Committee adopted the draft resolution, which was co-sponsored by 64 countries, without a vote on November 6. In 20120 the General Assembly adopted a previous resolution on this topic, A/RES/65/69.<sup>15</sup> The newest document, however, contains several updates in its seven clauses. The resolution calls on the United Nations to promote the representation of women in decision-making processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, it calls on Member States to strengthen the participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at all levels and to empower them, "including through capacity building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts."<sup>17</sup> The text also calls the Secretary General to report to the General Assembly on Member State views on how to promote the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control.<sup>1819</sup>

Criticism of the resolution includes concern over the lack of an explicit reference to UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1325 (2000) and the fact that there is no reflection on the distinct way women are affected by armed genderbased violence.<sup>20</sup> Iran was the only Member State that issued an explanation of vote, saying that it will implement the draft resolution "inasmuch as it is in line with our constitution, laws and regulations, as well as administrative procedures."<sup>21</sup>

The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects took place from 27 August to 7 September 2012.<sup>22</sup> Its outcome document makes more explicit, although still very limited, mention of gender than the original Program of Action Document.<sup>23</sup> The document calls on Member States to facilitate the participation of women in small arms policy making, to "explore means to eliminate the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women," as well as to "further integrate the role of women into efforts to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons."<sup>24</sup>

Led by Rutgers University's Center for Women's Global Leadership, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) participate in 16 day campaign of activism against gender violence. The event, held between November 25 –the International Day Against Violence Against Women- and December 10 –the international Human Rights Day, is an organizing strategy to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. For the last two year the campaign theme has been "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee (A/C.1/67/1), 21 September, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control* (A/RES/65/69), 8 December, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/67/48),* 4 January, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/67/48), 4 January, 2013.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> United Nations General Assembly, General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/67/48), 4 January, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/67/48), 4 January, 2013.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Arms Control, 12 November, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Islamic Republic of Iran: Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Explanation of vote of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran On Draft Resolution: "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control," 6 November, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4), 18 September, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4), 18 September, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4), 18 September, 2012.

Violence Against Women!" The campaign worked on issues constituting intersections of violence against women and militarism. Notably, as an outcome, a group of 135 NGOs submitted a Joint Statement to Promote an End to Gender-Based Violence to the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The position of these representatives of worldwide civil society organizations regarding the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty is clearly spelled out in the document, where they call States to include legally binding gender provisions in the treaty.<sup>25</sup> In this sense, the position is that one of the criteria to identify risks from a potential arms transfer should be the likelihood that those arms will be "used to perpetrate or facilitate acts of gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence."<sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, *Statement: elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, 2012.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Controlarms, Women, Gender and the Arms Trade Treaty. 2012.

Center for Women's Global Leadership. (2012, December). Joint Statement to Promote an End to Gender-Based Violence submitted to the United Nations' 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of 16 Days Campaign Partners. Retrieved January 22, 2012 from: <u>http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/program-areas/gender-based-violence/csw57</u>

This document is a statement submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women by 135 NGOs. It reflects the views of these representatives of civil society on what are the necessary actions that States need to take in order to ensure a gender-violence perspective to the disarmament debate. Of special interest is the content related to how the contents of the Arms Trade Treaty should incorporate a gender perspective.

United Nations General Assembly. (2010, 8 December). *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control* (A/RES/65/69). Retrieved January 21, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/69

This is a 2010 General Assembly Resolution dealing with the topic of women, disarmament, nonproliferation and arms control. The one-page document constitutes an encouragement to States to promote equitable representation and effective participation of women in decision-making processes regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control in international organizations and at the national level.

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, 18 September). Report of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4). Retrieved January 22, 2013 from: <u>http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4</u>

This is the report of the Review Conference of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Although it only mentions gender a few times, it is important because it contains the latest developments in the efforts of the international community to tackle Small Arms and Light Weapons.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, 4 January). *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/RES/67/48)*. Retrieved January 21, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/48

This resolution was adopted by the General Assembly First on January 4, 2012. It expands on the concepts already set forth in General Assembly Resolution 65/59 by calling for action by the United Nations and its Agencies, the Member States and the Secretary General. It also places the topic of women, disarmament, nonproliferation and arms control as an agenda item under "general and complete disarmament" for the next session of the General Assembly.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. (2010, 12 November). *Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Arms Control.* Retrieved January 21, 2013 from:

http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/ga 1st committee rewarticle women disarmament non-prolifer.pdf This is a review made of the newly adopted A/RES/67/48 when it was adopted by the First Committee as a Draft Resolution. It is very useful because if gives the reader a clear idea of the position of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which, in turn, is the same view held by many NGOs concerned with Women's rights around the world. The document analyses the then draft resolution, commenting on its strengths and weaknesses.

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United Nations General Assembly. (2012, 2 November). *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control* (A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1). Retrieved January 21, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.1/67/L.35/Rev.1

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, 4 January). *General and complete disarmament: women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control* (A/RES/67/48). Retrieved January 21, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/48

United Nations General Assembly. (2012, 21 September). *Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee* (*A/C.1/67/1*). Retrieved January 21, 2013 from: <u>http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.1/67/1</u>

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## **II.** Regulating Information and Telecommunications Technology in the Context of Security

Over the last months, there have been important developments on this topic both within the First Committee, as well as within relevant international and regional organizations. This topic was discussed during the  $67^{\text{th}}$  session of the General Assembly, concluding with the adoption of a resolution. The third Group of Governmental Experts held its first two meetings to continue to develop norms and principles and progress dialogue. Two international conferences discussed this topic: cyber security in November 2012, convened by UNIDIR and the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in December 2012. Finally, on the regional level, the Cybersecurity Innovation Center of the Arab region was established, and the European Cybercrime Centre was recently launched.

### **General Assembly First Committee**

The First Committee considers this topic under the topic of Disarmament, specifically agenda item number 89, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security."<sup>27</sup> During the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly which began on September 18, 2012, the First Committee discussed the topic during its general debate.<sup>28</sup> Contributing to the conversation was one report which contained submissions from Member States on issues related to information security, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/24.<sup>29</sup> During its 48<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting on December 3, 2012, the First Committee adopted by consensus a draft resolution on this topic, which sent the draft to the General Assembly Plenary committee for consideration.<sup>30</sup> On December 11, 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/27 entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security."<sup>31</sup>

## Third Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)

The third Group of Government Experts (GGE) on Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, which was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/24 in 2011, held the first of its three week-long meetings in mid-2012 and early 2013.<sup>32</sup> Some of the anticipated issues on the agenda for these meetings were lessons learned from the first and second GGE, including situating this topic firmly within international peace and security and focusing conversation on confidence building measures and coherence amongst parallel processes in other regional and international organizations. Another key topic is the legal issues related to information security in the context of conflict and the relationship between this issue and existing humanitarian law, as well as protection of information and international cooperation.<sup>33</sup> The first meeting was held in New York in August 2012 and the second in Geneva from 14-18 January 2013.<sup>34</sup> The third and final meeting is scheduled for June 2013 in New York.

### UNIDIR Conference on "The Role of Confidence Building Measures in Assuring Cyber Stability"

UNIDIR began discussions on this topic in 1999 and has contributed a great deal of the academic and policy research on this topic over the last twelve years. The Cyber Security Conference 2012 was held on November 8–9, 2012 in Geneva with the objective of sharing knowledge and generating valuable discussions on cyber security, and the role of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in guaranteeing stability in this domain.<sup>35</sup> The conference gathered experts on cyber security, and highlighted the importance of establishing a multi-stakeholder consortium for cyber security bringing together leaders from business; government; and citizens to address cyber threats.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Topic Area A: Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, p.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> UN General Assembly, Meeting of the General Assembly First Committee, Webcast, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> UN General Assembly, Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/67/167), 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> UN General Assembly, *Meeting records for the 48<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Sixty-seventh session (A/67/PV.48)*, 2012. <sup>31</sup> UN General Assembly, *Meeting records for the 48<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Sixty-seventh session (A/67/PV.48)*, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> UN ODA, Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>Tikk-Ringas, Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunication in the Context of International Security: Work of the UN First Committee 1998-2012, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Tikk-Ringas, Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunication in the Context of International Security: Work of the UN First Committee 1998-2012, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> UNIDIR, Cyber Security Conference 2012: The Role of Confidence Building Measures in Assuring Cyber Stability, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Cyber Security Summit, Agenda Cyber Security Conference 2012, 2012

#### World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

From December 3-14, 2012, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) convened the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai.<sup>37</sup> The 11-day conference brought together an estimated 1,900 delegates from 193 Member States to review the current International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs), a global treaty regulating international interoperability of intormation and communication services.<sup>38</sup> As an outcome to the WCIT, participants drafted the text of a revised global treaty setting out general principles for ensuring the free flow of information worldwide while promoting affordable and equitable access to information and telecommunication technology for all.<sup>39</sup> UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged that ICT management should be "transparent, democratic, and inclusive."<sup>40</sup> Mr. Ban also pointed out the need to "find consensus on how to effectively keep cyberspace open, accessible, affordable and secure for all."<sup>41</sup> However, on January 18, 2013 on the occasion of the Turtle Bay Roundtable on Proliferation Challenges in a Globalized World held in New York, the Secretary-General recognized that there is also a risk of an increased use of information and communication technologies for the creation and further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, therefore posing new disarmament challenges for the entire international community.<sup>42</sup>

### **Regional Initiatives**

On December 15, 2012, the ITU and the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) forged a partnership with the Information Technology Authority (ITA) of Oman for the establishment of the first Cybersecurity Innovation Center to address the needs of the Arab region.<sup>43</sup> The creation of such a center aims to expand ITU-IMPACT's cybersecurity initiatives in the region, as well as to improve the capacity, readiness, skills and knowledge in the areas of cybersecurity.<sup>44</sup> It is set up to operate as a catalyst for boosting regional cooperation and coordination to address escalating cyber threats, and it will benefit from ITU-IMPACT's existing global threat information and collaboration platforms, including the ITU-IMPACT's state-of-the-art systems such as the Network Early Warning System and the Electronically Secured Collaborative Application Platform for Experts.<sup>45</sup>

On January 11, 2013, the European Commission (EC) launched the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) at European the European criminal intelligence agency in The Hague, Netherlands.<sup>46</sup> The Centre was set up to assist European Union Member States' joint efforts towards dismantling cybercrime networks.<sup>47</sup> It is mandated to confront three main areas of cybercrime: "activities of organized crime groups (such as online fraud), crime causing serious harm (such as online child sexual exploitation), and crime targeting critical infrastructure and information systems in the European Union."<sup>48</sup> The Centre will also assist Member States and institutions in building operational and analytical capacity for cybercrime investigations, and aims to develop a common standard for cybercrime reporting, ensuring that information across the EU can be better accessed and disseminated.<sup>49</sup> Some international experts believe that the EC3 still needs to confront a high number of challenges if it is to tackle cybercrime in a more coordinated and effective manner, as the diversity in Member States' national approaches to policing cybercrime poses important trials for the EC3, which is willing to provide a common platform to drive consistency in the issue.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> World Conference on International Communications, *Overview of the Conference*, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> UN News Centre, At key technology conference, Secretary-General warns of 'digital divide' in Internet age, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Arin, World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> UN News Centre, At key technology conference, Secretary-General warns of 'digital divide' in Internet age, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> UN News Centre, At key technology conference, Secretary-General warns of 'digital divide' in Internet age, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Globalization Expands Access to Technology, Materials Needed for Mass Destruction Weapons, Creating New Disarmament Challenges, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> ITU, *ITU-IMPACT establishes first Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for Arab region*, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> ITU, ITU-IMPACT establishes first Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for Arab region, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> ITU, ITU-IMPACT establishes first Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for Arab region, 2012

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Jalote, European Commission launches Cybercrime Centre, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Robinson, Opening of the European Cybercrime Centre – A journey begins, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Jalote, European Commission launches Cybercrime Centre, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Jalote, European Commission launches Cybercrime Centre, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Robinson, Opening of the European Cybercrime Centre – A journey begins, 2013

Arin. (2012). *World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)*. Retrieved on January 8, 2013 from: https://www.arin.net/participate/governance/wcit.html

The article is an appraisal of the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT), held in December 2012 in Dubai. It includes an overview of the most relevant aspects of the gathering while analyzing the impact of the conference's outcome. The document outlines issues at stake during the WCIT, affirming that the expansion of the ITU role and the treaty text from the traditional network mandates may end up restricting community involvement, redefining the number resource management process, and instituting controls over the content on the internet. Finally, the article includes resource materials, webcasts, and other useful documents for delegates when researching the position of individual Member States and civil society in the conference.

International Telecommunication Unit (ITU). (2013). *ITU Data Base and Statistics*. Retrieved on January 23, 2013 from: <u>http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/</u>

This website provides helpful statistics regarding information and telecommunication technology worldwide. It includes recent surveys on a variety of topics such as: information society, WSIS Targets, child online protection, among others. Furthermore, the website is an important entry for delegates when researching for data on ICT access and use by households and individuals, ICT technology and communication availability in villages and rural areas, and the use of information and communication technology by children and youth worldwide. Finally, the web presents a compilation of global, regional, national telecommunication reports, as part of the ITU Internet Case Studies project. The project, which ran between 2000 and 2004, reviewed the diffusion of the internet in over 20 nations while the reports provide an assessment of a nation's telecommunication and mass media industries as well as the use of ICTs in different sectors of the economy such as government, education, business and health.

International Telecommunications Unit (2012). *ITU-IMPACT establishes first Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for Arab region Oman chosen as new regional cyber-hub*. Retrieved on January 21, 2012 from: http://www.itu.int/net/pressoffice/press\_releases/2012/93.aspx#.UQJ8Q5iXtEQ

This press release includes helpful information regarding the partnership between the ITU, IMPACT and (ITA) for the creation of the first Cybersecurity Innovation Centre aimed at catering needs of the Arab region. The formal exchange of Agreement took place in Muscat, Oman on 15 December 2012. The document includes statements from the ITUS Secretary-General, the Chairman of IMPACT, the Chief Executive Officer of ITA, and the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. It is an important first entry for delegates to attain a rather general overview of the initiative, and the position and expectations of its creators.

World Conference on International Communications (2012). *Overview of the Conference*. Retrieved on January 15, 2013 from: <u>http://www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/Pages/overview.aspx</u>

This website will provide delegates with detailed information regarding the WCIT and its outcome, and will be of most utility when researching the current position of their country towards International Telecommunication's Regulations (ITRs). It will also serve delegates in acknowledging the most current issues in the information security agenda, and the latest cooperative solutions outlined by the international community. The website includes a general overview of the Conference, its participants, agenda, and statements from representatives of Member States. Moreover, it presents list of documents, proposals and official reports from Member States participating in the Conference. A Pdf version of the WCIT 2012 Final Acts is also available on the web.

United Nations (2011). *Study Series. Development in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.* Retrieved February 6, 2013 from:

http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/DisarmamentStudySeries/PDF/DSS\_33.pdf This document is a UN Study Series on the topic of developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. The Study Series focuses mainly on the report of the 2009/2010 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) but it also puts together important background material including General Assembly resolutions on the topic and Reports from the Secretary-General. The document affirms that the issue of developments in information and telecommunications in the context of security has been on the UN agenda for a couple of decades now, and since then a rather large amount of official documentation has been produced, both by the GGEs and the Secretary-General. The document will serve delegates in acknowledging current measures taken regarding the issue while elaborating new and alternative cooperative approaches towards improving information security, and therefore decreasing the potential of ICTS for harmful actions.

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# III. Combating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

On Wednesday, July 27, 2012, in support of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, Amnesty International launched a campaign which juxtaposed the stringent global trade restrictions placed on bananas against the relatively feeble trade restrictions on conventional weapons.<sup>51</sup>According to the Congressional Research Service, agreements for foreign arms sales by the United States in 2011 totaled close to 66.3B USD.<sup>52</sup> Further, global arms sales in 2011 peaked at around 85.3B USD, with almost eighty-four percent of those sales involving developing countries.<sup>53</sup> Clearly, with enormous demand for conventional arms worldwide and a supply to match it, states must endeavor to responsibly regulate the global arms trade in order to "strengthen community security, manage conflict and mitigate violence."<sup>54</sup>

In addition to multiple reports and resolutions, the United Nations (UN), for its part, has adopted several international instruments to assist states in regulating small arms and light weapons, including *the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (A/RES/55/255), *the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (A/CONF.192/15), and others.<sup>55</sup> However, the Programme of Action (POA), the UN's "principal policy framework" in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons—like many international frameworks—is imperfect.<sup>56</sup> Absent from the POA are legally binding force, standardized methods for monitoring and verification, and clearly elucidated standards for nonstate entities.<sup>57</sup> Since 2006, Member States have been working towards an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that would address these issues precisely.<sup>58</sup>

Beginning in October at its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly First Committee adopted several resolutions and at least one report related to small arms and light weapons, including but not limited to A/RES/67/41, A/RES/67/58, A/RES/67/74, and A/C.1/67/L.21. The real success, however, was in the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty resolution. On January 4, 2013, after the Second Review Conference, and undeterred by the disappointing end to the ATT conference in July, the General Assembly adopted A/RES/67/234 the Arms Trade Treaty without opposition.<sup>59</sup> The resolution concretized the United Nations Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is scheduled to convene March 18-28, 2013 at the UN Headquarters in New York City.<sup>60</sup> There, the States will negotiate the existing draft treaty, A/Conf.217/CRP.1, in order to adopt a global, legally binding Arms Trade Treaty and regulate the international trade of conventional arms according to the highest possible standards.<sup>61</sup>

Although global frameworks and treaties are important, whether the global arms trade can be meaningfully regulated is determined largely by the commitment and participation of the individual Member States. National legislation, properly trained officials, bilateral and multilateral agreements, regional partnerships, and public-private-partnerships are all critical elements of enforcement at the state level. For example, On October 26, 2012, British authorities were able to sentence an arms dealer, Gary Hyde, for smuggling, based on his failure to obtain the proper licensing to engage in arms transfers.<sup>62</sup> Also in 2012, the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) sponsored a project in Mauritania in accordance with the 1994 Mediterranean Dialogue framework to guarantee the security and destruction of weapons stockpiles left over from the country's long history of conflict.<sup>63</sup> NATO's Trust Fund project

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Trimel, Amnesty International Stages New York City "Bananafesto" Action in Times Square June 27, Ahead of Historic Arms Trade Treaty Talks at United Nations, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Biron, U.S. Foreign Weapons Sales Triple, Setting Record, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Biron, U.S. Foreign Weapons Sales Triple, Setting Record, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary General, 2011, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Small Arms*, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> United Nations Programme of Action Implementation Support System, *Firearms Protocol*, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Efrat, *Toward Internationally Regulated Goods: Controlling the Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, from International Organization*, 2010, p. 99.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, Arms Trade Treaty, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 67/234 Arms Trade Treaty*, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 67/234 Arms Trade Treaty, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 67/234 Arms Trade Treaty*, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Taylor, UK Arms Dealer Sentenced for Smuggling, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO Sponsors Project to Help Reduce Terrorism Risk in Mauritania, 2012.

provided funding for the destruction of over 1,800 tons of "obsolete" munitions, including Man Portable Aircraft Defense Systems (MANPADS), shoulder launched surface-to-air missiles, and other munitions.<sup>64</sup>

Delegates are encouraged to consider weaknesses in existing frameworks in order to discuss creative ways to advance the debate surrounding small arms and light weapons control. In particular, delegates may work towards addressing important questions or topics which, for the sake of consensus, have been omitted from existing frameworks, such as diversion of SALW, similarly regulating ammunition in addition to SALW, the impacts of SALW on women, development, ethnic, indigenous, or religious groups, the environment, etc.<sup>65</sup> Many states could benefit from stronger combinations of policing and prevention, through buffered domestic legislation featuring incentives, punishments, and deterrents, and enforced by exceptionally well trained police and military.<sup>66</sup> Further, bearing in mind accessibility, affordability, feasibility, and scalability, delegates may work towards establishing a coherent global system for monitoring and verification of small arms and light weapons controls, defining and distinguishing authorized from unauthorized nonstate entities in the context of small arms and light weapons, highlighting the means through which regional and cross-regional technical assistance programs may be executed, fortifying security for domestic weapons stockpiles, and systematizing scalable national programs and legislation for disarmament and destruction of seized and confiscated weapons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organization, *NATO Sponsors Project to Help Reduce Terrorism Risk in Mauritania*, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> International Action Network on Small Arms, UN Small Arms Conference Reaches Agreement on Final Afternoon, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary General, 2011, II (60), p. 13.

Efrat, A. (2010, January 10). Toward Internationally Regulated Goods: Controlling the Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, In: *International Organization*, Volume 64 (01): pp. 97-131.

Efrat's article considers why governments regulate certain types of goods that are incongruent with typical regulatory and trade policy. Small arms and light weapons, in this case, are regulated to minimize negative externalities. Efrat also considers some of what he considers weaknesses in the PoA framework.

Kimball, D. (2011, October). *The Arms Trade Treaty at a Glance*. Retrieved January 13, 2013 from http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/arms\_trade\_treaty.

Kimball offers a brief snapshot overview of the arms trade treaty separated by headings that make it easy to read and understand. He briefly catalogues the history of the ATT, discusses two complementary rationales for the ATT, and afterwards describes its scope, as well as key implementation issues.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (2012, August 28). *NATO Sponsors Project to Help Reduce Terrorism Risk in Mauritania*. Retrieved February 5, 2013 from <u>http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-A2019B3C-C7E74F91/natolive/news\_89658.htm?selectedLocale=en</u>.

NATO's trust fund program with Mauritania is the quintessence of the Mediterranean Dialogue, and a prime example of a multilateral partnership through an IGO. NATO has provided funding for Mauritania, with the help of Italy and others, to secure and destroy conventional weapons stockpiles left over from its history of conflict.

Parker, S. (2012, March). An Arms Trade Treaty: Will it Support or Supplant the POA?. In: *Small Arms Survey Research Notes* (15). Retrieved January 15, 2013 from <u>http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research Notes/SAS-Research-Note-15.pdf</u>.

Parker's article is an insightful comparison of the PoA vis-à-vis the ATT. Parker questions whether the two documents will be cooperative or competitive, and reports on her findings in detail. Parker has co-authored several UN publications in addition to her academic and other professional work.

United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. (2012, August 1). *Draft of the Arms Trade Treaty*. Retrieved February 5, 2013 from <u>http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT</u>.

This is the draft text of the Arms Trade Treaty. Submitted after the July conference, there were several points that were omitted from the draft text that were discussed in great detail during the conference. It would be worth it for delegates to investigate some of the points that do not appear in the draft text in addition to the ones that did.

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