

Position Paper:

Mali's Perspective on the Impact of Illegal Arms Trade Routes to the Sahel Region and Surrounding States



Country's Position on the Topic



The Sahel region, which spans across Africa, faces a major problem with the illegal arms trade. This illegal activity fuels conflicts, undermines national security, and hinders development. From Mali's viewpoint, the spread of illegal arms is a challenge not only for us but for the entire region and beyond. Illegal arms have prolonged conflicts, fueled crime, and destabilized our nation. Therefore, Mali believes that addressing this issue requires a strong and united international effort.

Country's Relation to the Topic

Mali, at the center of the Sahel, is deeply affected by the illegal arms trade. These weapons empower militant groups, escalate local violence, and make it harder for the government and international partners to maintain peace. In northern Mali, armed groups use these weapons to challenge the government and terrorize communities, creating instability that spreads to neighboring countries.

To combat this, Mali has joined regional efforts like the G5 Sahel Joint Force and has participated in international discussions aimed at controlling the illegal arms trade. However, the complexity and cross-border nature of this problem mean that we need even stronger and more coordinated global strategies.

Proposals of Policies to Pass in a Resolution

To effectively tackle the illegal arms trade in the Sahel, Mali proposes the following policies for the DISEC committee to consider:

1. Improved Border Control and Monitoring:

Strengthen border control with advanced technology and better training for security personnel. This will help detect and stop illegal arms shipments before they enter our countries.

2. Regional Intelligence Sharing:

Create a robust system for sharing intelligence among Sahel countries and international partners. A centralized database to track illegal arms movements and identify trafficking networks would be key.

3. Support for Disarmament Programs:

Enhance support for programs that disarm non-state actors, demobilize combatants, and reintegrate them into civilian life. These programs can reduce the number of arms in circulation and help former fighters find peaceful livelihoods.

4. Stronger Legal Frameworks:

Promote the adoption and enforcement of strict national and regional arms control laws. This includes making the possession, transfer, and manufacture of illegal arms a serious crime, with strict enforcement through well-funded judicial systems.

5. International Cooperation and Assistance:

Advocate for more international cooperation and assistance to boost the capacity of Sahel countries to fight the illegal arms trade. This includes financial aid, technical support, and training provided by the United Nations and other international bodies.

6. Community Engagement and Education

Implement programs that educate communities about the dangers of illegal arms and promote local peacebuilding initiatives. Empowering communities to resist armed groups and report illegal activities can be a strong deterrent.

Mali is committed to collaborating with other nations to address the pressing issue of illegal arms trade in the Sahel. By adopting these policies, we can collectively enhance regional stability, protect our citizens, and support sustainable development.

Conclusion

The illegal arms trade is a significant threat to the security and development of the Sahel region. As a nation deeply impacted by this issue, Mali calls on the global community to unite in taking strong measures to curb the flow of illegal weapons. Through international cooperation, stronger legal frameworks, and enhanced regional capabilities, we can make significant progress toward a safer and more stable Sahel. Together, we can turn the tide against the illegal arms trade and secure a peaceful future for all.