



Country: China

Committee: DISEC

Agenda Item: Impact of Illegal Arms Trade Routes to the Sahel Region and the Surrounding States

Africa, which is the home continent of the region of Sahel. Africa has always been the pearl of the world which consisted the crucial and precious mines. But, besides the mines Africa has always faced humanitarian problems which led to the death of their kind. One of these problems has been the uncontrolled proliferation of unlicensed arms and the creation of illegal trade routes to provide these unlicensed arms. Accordingly, illegal arms trade has been a tenacious problem in the Sahel region with historical precedents dating back to colonial and post-colonial eras. The proliferation of illegal arms rapidly multiplied in the Cold War era as the rival powers were jousting over for regional superiority and armed individuals to further expand their geopolitical interests. By the end of the Cold War, the Sahel region faced a stream of illicit arms trade into the region. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (including the weapons that were used in past wars) has led to a chain of violence and terrorist acts in the region. In the end, criminal networks, and armed groups were influenced by the wave of illicit arms trade and they have used this opportunity to manipulate the weak governments to expand the area of their influence on civilians.

Surely, The UN has proposed some solutions and has taken some of them into action. One of the proposals can be counted as an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Arms Trade Treaty is the first legally binding instrument ever negotiated in the United Nations to establish common standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons. This proposal is a treaty that was opened for signature on 3 June 2013 and was taken into force on 24 December 2014. According to this China didn't sign the treaty in the first place (stayed abstained from the voting procedure too) but later on deposited it on 6 July 2020. This treaty may seem like a solid solution for the conflicts occurring in the Sahel region but it lacks the power it needs. To prevent further conflicts and casualties from occurring in the Sahel region all the countries in the Sahel region should take this treaty into action. Despite being a country in the Sahel region Sudan, Eritrea, and Algeria haven't

signed the treaty and have voted against the resolution proposed by DISEC. By this, it is a crucial requirement for the treaty to be more in charge worldwide. Also, UNSC resolutions were proposed but the main thing lacking was the power of resolutions and their lack of attention on holey country borders.

As China, we are the second leader of the world economy with 17.96 trillion USD GDP. We are cognizant of how important the investments are in any sector. For a very long time, Chinese policy was based on significant economic investments in the manufacturing industries of the Sahel countries. To this end, the creation, two decades ago a mixed company between the Government of Mali and the Chinese Light Industry Company for Techno-Economic Cooperation with Abroad (SUKALA s.a) was set up which is today one of the largest industrial companies in Mali and has generated more than 35 million dollars for the Malian State in taxes and duties. Also, during the 1980s China was strongly involved in the Sugar Complex of the Upper Kala (SUKALA), Malian Textile Company (COMATEX), Mali Tannery Company (TAMALI), Malian Pharmaceutical Factory (UMPP), Popular Pharmacy of Mali (PPM) were subject to this type of intervention. We pledged more than 45 million dollars to the G5-Sahel joint force in early 2019 and 1.5 million dollars for the operation of a permanent secretariat in other cases, we allied with Russia to block some resolutions initiated by other UN Security Council members on Mali, in addition to the supply of several military equipments respectively to the countries of the G5-Sahel and more generally to those of the African Union. Also, one of our main objectives is the restoration of the past glory of China and the state; recalling the age-old desire for a rich and powerful modern China and maintaining social stability. Particularly though, we are concerned about the protection of our nationals in Africa which is over 1 million people today. Besides our tangible and intangible concerns, we are worried about the stability of Africa. As Africa is very efficient on mines such as (Titanium, copper, cobalt, oil, etc.) these are crucial for the very large population we hold (1.412 billion people). Another thing is that Nigeria is the largest trading partner in Africa for China. So, if the exportation and our trade relations are interrupted China would search for alternative ways to acquire such needs.

Sahel region has always been more special for China as the region holds our biggest trading partner Nigeria. There are some countries (such as Burkina Faso) that are still struggling with transparency and robustness of elections. So, in order to eradicate the trust issues in the ongoing elections we will be providing an evaluation and assessment team to these countries to ensure the robustness and transparency of their elections. This team's member counts will depend on the election centers in the countries and the members will be trained professionally in an unbiased environment to ensure full robustness. The accommodation, training, and all the direct and indirect costs will be met by the Chinese government to not cause further damage to the economy of the countries. Another action will be bolstering the military of the nations. We will

be providing the nations with enough ammunition and manpower to overcome the illicit trade routes. But, our main support will be about investments. On governments (which can be considered as still developing countries) we will be bolstering them with an amount of 150 million dollars to enhance their public sector and help them to end the authority of criminal organizations economically.

REFERENCES

TEDMUN'24 DISEC STUDY GUIDE

<https://tedmun.tedankara.k12.tr/assets/guides/DISEC%20STUDY%20GUIDE.pdf>

CHINA'S STANCE ON SAHEL REGION

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SAHEL REGION

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THE ATT

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