

**Country:** United States of America  
**Agenda Item:** Impact of Illegal Arms Trade Routes to the Sahel Region and the Surrounding States  
**Committee:** DISEC  
**Delegate:** Zikri Yiğit Karakaya



The USA acknowledges the fact that illegal arms trade routes to the Sahel region and the surrounding states are of huge impact worldwide. They are huge destroyers to Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and portions of Sudan and Senegal. Not only do these arms trades inhibit the economic, social and political success of these countries; they also deeply harm every country globally. The illegal arms trades often come with transnational crime like human and drug trafficking. It is almost impossible for states in the Sahel region to prosper, as they are too busy spending resources to combat terrorism and proliferation of illegal arms.

Terrorist organisations like Boko Haram, AQIM, and ISWAP use the easy accessibility of weapons and they demonstrate acts of terrorism to gain further power. As a result, IDPs and refugees are left with horrible circumstances. Civilians experience severe PTSD and are caught in between the crossfire over the power struggle between rival groups. Transnational criminal groups use weak borders to transport weapons and use weakened governmental structures to their advantage. This is a huge risk to international security. The USA has been a huge supporter and a long time ally to the countries in the Sahel region. First of all, through organisations like TSCTP and the USAID; the USA is a huge donor to the Sahel region. We as the United States of America fund educational, economical and agricultural developments. The Fulbright Program, The USAID West Africa Trade and Investment Hub, and the WAAPP are all great examples of our relentless support to the Sahel region. Also, the USA has been a part of several military operations to battle extremist groups in these regions. The USA also partakes in diplomatic efforts to support regional cooperations such as the G5 Sahel Joint Force. However, with the recent coupon transitions to civilian rule in Burkina Faso and Mali the USA finds it harder to promote peace and welfare.

The United States of America believes that the only way to ensure peace is for all states to work in harmony. We should create a separate organisation to share information and resources. Rehabilitation programs should be set out to treat the victims, especially young children. Fundings should be given to countries in the Sahel region for agricultural, social and economic growth. There should be harsher consequences for terrorists and people involved in transnational crime. Border security needs to be developed and thoroughly assessed.

Finally the USA believes that through unity, trust and engagement of all we can have a world with a peaceful and thriving Sahel region.

## References:

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