**Central African Republic (CAR)**

**Disarmament and International Security Commitee (DISEC)**

**Topic: The Impact of Arms Trafficking in the Sahel Region and Surrounding Areas**

Arm trafficking stands out as a crucial issue among the other security problems affecting the Sahel Region, which covers the whole continent of Africa. The Central African Republic (CAR) and the neighbor countries do suffer great due to this illegal trade, that feeds terrorism, instability and violence. CAR recognizes the critical point of combating arm trafficking for the purpose to encourage regional development, security and peace.

Increased distribution of illicit weapons had a significant impact on the Central African Republic. The flow of these arms strengths rebel groups and threatens government authority, improving the ongoing struggle within the borders. The security issues became a larger problem because of the political chaos in border countries which are, Chad, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where open borders allow weaponry to enter the Central African Republic. Regarding the past, weapons from crisis zones such as Libya, Mali and Sudan have found their way into the Central African Republic (CAR). This contributed to the ongoing trend of violence and displacement and made it more difficult for us to achieve long-term peace and development. The non-stop availability of illicit arms continues to block the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) process regardless of the face of UN peacekeeping missions.

To combat the issue of arms trafficking in the Sahel region and its surroundings, Central African Republic proposes the following measures:

The Central African Republic (CAR) promotes increased collaboration between Sahelian nations in order to efficiently track and regulate borders. This include coordinated border patrols, sharing of data, and planned operations to take down networks that trade in weaponry. In order to strengthen the capacity of our security forces, CAR requests assistance internationally. This includes, training, equipment aid, assistance with technology to strengthen border security also helping with track and trace system which will help prevent the illegal weapon trade. The CAR suggests that the international agreements of firearm control, as an example of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), must be merged with all national laws. We support stricter enforcement of these regulations to stop the illegal traffic in weaponry. In order to mention the main reasons of conflict, CAR underlines the important role of discussion and efforts towards the white flag. The need for weapons can be decreased within a more stable environment, which is possible by promoting inclusive democratic procedures and solving issues. The Central African Republic dedicates to solve the issue of illicit trade in arms in the Sahel Region by collaborating with both domestic and foreign nations. With putting these strategies into action, we can stop the flow of illegal weaponry, reduce violence, and open the way for permanent peace and stability. The CAR encourages the DISEC committee to support these efforts and act immediately at the aim to stop the trafficking of weapons in our region.

References

-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports on arms trafficking in the Sahel.

-Reports from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

-Central African Republic government documents on security and DDR programs.

-International treaties and agreements such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).