**Canada**

**Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)**

***Impact of illegal arms trade routes to the Sahel region and***

***the surrounding states***

The enormous amounts of illegal ammunition in our world are a huge problem. And most importantly we have major problems in the Sahel region, the illegal arm trades threatens both Africa’s and Sahel’s peace solidarity. The Sahel region, in Africa is facing a security crisis due to the easy access to illegal ammunition. Canada as a supporter of peace and development in Africa is deeply troubled by the effects of uncontrolled spread of ammunition across borders in this area. This issue directly impacts Africa’s fight against terrorism, organized crime and standing armed conflicts that have displaced millions of people. Groups like Jama'at Nasr alIslam wal Muslimin and Islamic State factions in the region remain dangerous because they have access to ammunition enabling them to carry out violent attacks on civilians. The crisis stems from factors such as control over stockpiles, corruption, porous borders and smuggling networks. Notably the diversion of military and national ammunition stockpiles into the market, plays a role in fueling this problem.

Canada has been actively supporting the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel by providing $500 million since 2017 for security measures, governance improvements and humanitarian aid. However, there is a need for increased efforts through actions involving development of Sahel countries, regional organizations, like ECOWAS and Liptako Gourma Authority the African Union and international allies to address this challenge effectively.

We as the delegation of Canada need to make sure that the Kinshasa Convention, Nairobi Protocol and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines are followed in full extent. This means helping Sahel and African countries which are close to the Sahel borders to manage their weapon supplies as well as controlling borders strictly and sharing information regionally. It's important that we should pursue and intervention modality such that security is ensured by following rights and laws and illegal trading is annulled. Canada is ready to help with capacity building and support in this area.

Illegal weapons can cause problems by helping terrorists and criminals hurt countries and disrupt peace efforts. We should take steps to stop these weapon supplies with help from African leaders and international partners. This is key to making the Sahel region safer, from violence and danger.