**Country**: Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

**Commitee**: The Disarmament and International Security Committee

**Agenta item**: Impact of Illegal Arms Trade Routes to the Sahel Region and the Surrounding States

**Intrudution to the Agenda Item**

The Sahel region includes Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, and Eritrea,is known as the heaven for gun buyers and their biggest market.The region is known for its insurgency and banditry, severe security and humanitarian crises, extreme climate shocks, and of course trafficking. Also in the Sahel region, there is often no clear distinction between violent crime and conflict, with firearms being central to both. Despite that, our biggest concern is the trafficking of weapons which leads to lots of crises and challenges to not only themselves but the states that bordering that region. With that being said we can also say that the Sahel region’s illegal trades is not a national or a regional issue, it is an international problem.

**Impacts of Illegal Arms Trades**

**a)Violance**

Arms tracking in West Africa and the Sahel continues to fuel armed conflict, crime, instability, and violent extremism. Armed groups are involved in various forms of violence and crime, driven by tensions, conflicts between farmers and herders, violent religious extremism, and competition over resources like water and arable land. This persistent insecurity leads more people to take up arms. Across the Sahel states facing attacks by violent extremist organizations (VEOs) including Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM), Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), Islamic State in the West African Province (ISWAP)…Which took advantage of the absence of the government not taking an act and violent extremism. Self-defense militias or vigilante groups have emerged throughout the region, including traditional hunter groups some are alleged to have been involved in banditry and trafficking. And because of the benefit from illegal arms, enhancing their operational capabilities. These arms conduct more sophisticated and lethal attacks. Additionally, local militias groups in some states started to gain power. For instance, Burkina Faso legalized self-defense militias. Furthermore, The easy availability of weapons escalates conflicts, leading to increasing violent acts.

**b)Loss of State Authority**

Because of the violent extremism and terrorist acts states lose their authority. armed groups move and operate across borders which leads to regional instability and cross-border insecurity. Also, governments in the region struggle to maintain control over large, remote areas and these group's presence undermines the governments and weaken the authority by making ungoverned places.

**c)Economy**

Due to violence, insecurity, and armed groups, foreign investors are being discouraged, and because of that growth of the economy stops. But these aren't all. The illegal acts including drug trafficking, human trafficking, etc., inability to collect taxes, and large amounts of spending on defense and security are in addition to these reasons.

**d)** **Humanitarian**

**Due to schools and hospitals being often targeted or attacked even basic human needs to fulfill for instance limited access to healthcare and disruption of the education of children.Because of these reasons and the illegal acts people flee to other countries and mostly live in the camps with limited access to basic needs or they flee to neighbouring countries which leads to refugee flows. But unfortunately, it doesn't end there. The psychological trauma due to violence leaves scars on them.**

**Impacts to Afghanistan**

As a country geographically distant from the Sahel, illegal arms trafficking influenced Afghanistan in a negative way like many others. Due to the unfortunate situation in Afghanistan, its long-term conflict and instability indirectly affect the region through global arms trafficking networks as the other countries. Although Afghanistan does not directly impact the Sahel, the long term has left a large surplus of small arms and light weapons. These weapons have sometimes ended up in the hands of global arms traffickers but it is not Afghanistan’s fault. Arms originating from conflict zones, including Afghanistan, often flow through complex international trafficking routes. These networks are sophisticated and capable of moving weapons across continents. Furthermore, Afghanistan has been involved in various international efforts to combat the illicit arms trade. By cooperating with global initiatives, Afghanistan contributes to broader security measures aimed at curbing the spread of illegal weapons. This cooperation is part of a global strategy to enhance arms control, which indirectly supports stability in regions affected by illicit arms, including the Sahel​. Afghanistan is trying to stabilize and control the flow of weapons within and across its borders. In Summary, even though Afghanistan's unfortunate situation and history, there are efforts ongoing to control these trades which are playing an important role in the global fight against illicit arms trafficking.

**Possible Solutions to be Adressed**

Before solving a problem or an issue we must look at the factors, effectiveness, and reasons. For instance, while there is evidence of long-range firearms trafficking to the Sahel, including by air from France and from Turkey via Nigeria, it appears that the vast majority of firearms trafficked in the region are procured within Africa and these firearms make their way to the coastal countries of West Africa and have been used in terrorist attacks in the Gulf of Guinea. If a country uses illegally traded firearms how is going to stop or decrease the production or the trafficking? There is a market because there is a purchaser. The UN can suggest a law about the buyer countries to prevent buying them. Buying these weapons means that they are supporting them. If a UN country supports an illegal trade we have a problem as the UN. About violent extremist organizations, no country must not recognize or legalize them. As the UN we can fight them together. To the ungoverned spaces controlled by these groups, to increase security and not to lose authority we can send military officers. Also, we need to tighten the inspections and be more strict about this region's border management. For refugee flow to solve this problem we can make NGOs provide healthcare and education and we must ensure to make a safe zone for that. Lastly, we can raise public awareness of the Sahel Region problem.

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