Country: United Arab Emirates

Committee: DISEC

Agenda Item: Impact of illegal arms trade routes to the Sahel region and the surrounding states

The Sahel region, which extends from West Africa to Red Sea has been a target of terrorist attacks for about ten years. Al Qaede and DAESH affiliated groups carry out attacks on the Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso border, killing hundreds of people every year. Clearly, terrorist initatives make the region vulnerable to illegal arms trade. The proliferation of illegal arms in the Sahel region causes human rights abuses,armed conflict, terrorism and insurgency.

The UN partners and Sahelians themselves working for peace in the Sahel are making inroads and introuducing new efforts. UN Pacekeeping is adopting a strategy for disarmement,demobilization and reintegration of former combatants also the UNREC and the UNDP are in a joint project assited nine Sahelian countries in adopting a regional action plan to combat the illicit arms trade. The UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) supports the regional G5 Sahel Force in a project focused on criminal justice, border security management and preventing violent extremism.

The UAE is aware of the painful consequences of the conflicts in the region. İllegal arms trade badly affects the region in social economic and humanitarian aspects. As UAE we are providing humanitarian,militarian and economic aids to countries effected by terrorist organizations. The UAE is strongly committed to supporting local initiatives aimed at tackling terrorism, insurgencies, and transnational crime. They actively work to promote peace and prosperity in their region by engaging in diplomatic relations with Sahel governments and regional organizations.

Possible Solutions:

1. We must continue to support regional initatives and mechanisms established to address transnational threats, such as terrorism and organized crime.
2. We must continue providing relief aid to cope with the influx of displaced people from Sudan to Chad.
3. UAE and neighboring countries must cooperate for border security to prvent the spread of illegal arms trade
4. Providing training and resources to improve detection and interception of illegal arms is essencial for the region’s protection.
5. Commuter towns are mostly in danger of the criminal networks therefore military powers and equipments arrangements must focus on rural areas.