

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The two agenda for the General Assembly are: Controlling and Limiting the use and impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) and Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation. The republic of Macedonia strongly supports concrete efforts to control and limit SALWs as well as foster cooperation among nations to address the increasing threats brought about by crimes and terrorisms.

I. Controlling and Limiting the use and impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. (SALWs)

The emerging threats of terrorism in many forms in the international scene brought about by the strong presence of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) have led nations to respond with conviction and opt for the total control and limiting the use of illicit small arms and light weapons. Realizing the severity and the negative impacts on security, social and economic development, member nations of the Western Balkans and European Union (EU) started to reaffirm their commitment to act together and exercise active participation in joining forces to combat the grave threats of terrorism.

Supporting the European Union and its Commission, the Republic of Macedonia pursues efforts to review existing laws and come up with solid measures to strengthen the capacities to fight the proliferation and misuse of the SALWs. The Republic of Macedonia sent its response to the United Nation's Secretary General's request for views on the resolution "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms (A/Res/61/89)". The Republic of Macedonia also engaged in the implementation of the UN Programme of Action that was mainly focused on the adoption of legislation concerning civilian weapons possession.

Responding to the issue, the Republic of Macedonia strongly adheres to the importance of cooperation and to the establishment of a stronger mandate for each committee. The Republic of Macedonia aims to achieve the full implementation of stricter arms control from activities such as: manufacturing, trading, transfer, use and disposal of weapons and ammunitions by (1) strengthening political will through laws, programmes and policies; (2) realigning security measures with that of other member nations subject to international standards; (3) exercising transparency with regard to measures being undertaken to combat terrorism and illegal possession of arms; (4) to adapt a viable work programme with that of the European Union to ensure a long term success and (5) to engage consistently in empowering the civilian society to achieve peace, security and progress.

II. Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational Crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation

Transnational crimes post significant challenges to law and order. The diversity of crime-related incidents demands responses that will help address various injustices. The creation of International Human Rights Law proves the consistent need to reform the criminal justice systems in accordance with the basic UN standards and norms. The progression of crime-related activities has become one of the biggest challenges that the International Community is facing nowadays.

The Republic of Macedonia has an active cooperation with the Council of Europe and is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) whose aim is to eliminate crimes in all its forms. The Republic of Macedonia continues to implement stricter laws against criminal acts of injustices and comprehensive plans of actions were carefully laid out to address these issues. The Republic of Macedonia embraces the need to execute multi- disciplinary responses to prevent crimes from proliferating and to ensure that law enforcements are being undertaken consistently and effectively.

The Republic of Macedonia recognizes the need to apply a balanced and integrative approach to the emerging threats that can bring massive unrest and violation of human rights together with all the member states. That concrete responses must be (1) adequate and in line with the uprising of sophisticated crimes; (2) participate as it allows the direct involvement of people; (3) systematic as to ensure favorable responses; (4) balanced so as not to offend any fundamental values and; (5) consistent as it pertains to the rule of law and the application of series of reforms. The Republic of Macedonia strongly supports the policies and reforms that are included in the peace agenda and stresses the importance of intergovernmental and international cooperation to the attainment of peace and development.

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