Introduction

Rapid advancements in technology has resulted in an influx of new and more effective form of weapons in the international arms trade. Due to the quick evolving nature of the ecosystem that is the arms trade, the United Nations faces immense difficulties writing new regulations to control the utilization and trading of these new weapons. Ultimately, the arms trade consists of much more than its archetypal concept of explosives and guns. Aerial drones, surveillance androids, cyber warfare techniques with new forms of weaponry being unveiled on a consistent basis. Recent innovations include new and efficient ways to develop certain technologies that already exist, as well as a new medium that gives innovators more flexibility to what they can create. New methods like 3D Printing ensure experimenters cheap and virtually risk-free ways to develop ideas that were unconceivable in the past. The United Nations must find solutions to regulate the arms trade for weapons that are already in existence, as well as for weapons emerging due to technological advancements. Having this foresight towards future developments will give the international community an upper hand in making sure these new innovative weapons do not fall into the wrong hands.

Key Terms

Additive manufacturing

Additive manufacturing is the official industry standard term (ASTM F2792) for all applications of the technology. It is defined as the process of joining materials to make objects from 3D model data, usually layer upon layer, as opposed to subtractive manufacturing methodologies.

Arms Trade Treaty

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral, legally-binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.

Nanotechnology
The branch of technology that deals with dimensions and tolerances of less than 100 nanometers, especially the manipulation of individual atoms and molecules.

**Arms embargo**

An arms embargo is a prohibition or sanction against the export of weaponry and dual-use items - goods which have both a civil and military use.

**UAV**

an unmanned aerial vehicle (an aircraft piloted by remote control or onboard computers).

**The Biological Weapons Convention**

Prohibits the development, production, stockpiling or acquisition by other means, or retention of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, as well as of weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

Chemical Weapons Convention: is an arms control treaty which outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.

**History**

The Cold War from 1947-1991 was an important time in history when major countries of the world were collectively developing arms to show off it’s own ranking in the arms race. When the Cold War ended, a major surplus of weapons piled up with none being used by the countries involved in this race. Due to the lack of legislations concerning weapons and their import and export policies, this lead to issues where these newly developed weapons could easily fall into the hands of the wrong people.

Technology has surely flourished in the past decade with millions of technologically inclined minds, willing to do anything to be immortalized in the world of rapid technological advancements. Nations and international communities should make ready with policies by predicting problems that could ensue as technology advances. Existing technology that serves as a template to create innovations that should’ve been impossible in the past should be thoroughly scrutinized to create policies that accurately depicts the future arms market. Additive manufacturing and nanotechnology are the primary examples of risky developments that has the ability to create so much more; either advantageous to the economy or vice versa. Major countries are now funding the further development of these novelties. With the United States, China, France, United Kingdom and Russia making up for around 80% of the global arms market, member
states are still the most prolific arms traders. But unlawful arms trade still accounts for nearly 20% of the world’s weapons market.

A majority of illicit arms trading usually results in terrorist groups obtaining these powerful weapons. Not only does this put the civilians of nations in jeopardy, it also risks the further production of weapons by companies working to supply for state owned forces. In 2013, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) passed in the United Nations which states “The Arms Trade Treaty obligates member states to monitor arms exports and ensure that weapons don’t cross existing arms embargoes or end up being used for human-rights abuses, including terrorism. Member states, with the assistance of the U.N., will put into place enforceable, standardised arms import and export regulations (much like those that already exist in the U.S.) and be expected to track the destination of exports to ensure they don’t end up in the wrong hands. Ideally, that means limiting the inflow of deadly weapons into places like Syria.”

Key Issues

“Arms trade laws are so out of date that the sales of army helmets are more regulated than the components assembled into deadly weapons. What the world needs is an effective international Arms Trade Treaty that will stop the flow of arms to those that commit human rights abuses,” said Irene Khan, the former Secretary General of Amnesty International.

Emerging technologies and the rising production level of arms due to these emerging technologies seem to raise problems in the international community with confusion of the transparency of trades occurring between countries or organizations and the misuse of these items.

Islamic State (ISIS)

After recent events, the world has seen the immense amount of firepower that the terrorist organization has under it’s supervision. After the waves of strikes that the United States launched against ISIS in the northern part of Iraq, research teams discovered that the powerful jihadist group has been gathering different piles of weapons and armor. The biggest concern with this issue is regarding the source of all these weapons. According to reports, the organization has major weapons that consist of Soviet Tanks, U.S. made systems and weapons sold on the black market. The group could have much more stock in their inventory and the council has to establish policies to ensure the safety of citizens from this terrorist organization.
Arms Broker and Arms Embargo

There is a serious lack of legislations concerning the prohibition of arms transfers. The UN Security Council arms embargo is the only global, legally binding policy on the prohibition of arms transfers.

A large portion of illegal arms trading occur in the Middle East and African regions where arms dealers could easily import and export their stock into areas of civil war. This was due to the extreme leniency and negligence of restrictions concerning these type of situations. Traders come in using forged documents stating the legality of the products they are exporting or importing. Though legislations exist, loopholes have been constantly detected by dealers in the market. An Irish dealer in 2004 transferred multiple T72 tanks from Ukraine to Sudan. Though laws existed to prevent the transfer of weapons from countries directly, the government was restricted to take legal actions due to the lack of policies stating that Irish dealers cannot order arms through other countries.

Remote Surveillance Systems

The use of remote surveillance systems in the world has never been more prevalent until now. Drones or UAVs are being used by major countries all around the world. Though the technology exists to make these systems as secure as possible, many countries take shortcuts when it comes to the production of these machines. The systems are made in the cheapest price available to fit the funds available but this leads to low quality vehicles that has a high probability of having malfunctions or errors during operation. Apart from the casualties that these machines could cause, the main purpose behind these machines is either surveillance or remotely controlled combat. The United States has launched unmanned drones in Middle East Asia that has injured or killed over 4000 people. On the case of surveillance, the aerial drones can easily target and monitor the actions and conversations of anyone the controller desires. This raises questions in terms of privacy laws and human rights which the council should find ways to mediate for the appeasement of all nations involved.

Major Parties Involved
**The United States of America**

Being one of the superpowers of the world, the United States has always been in the running for the most technologically advanced country/military. Since post World War II and the Cold War, the United States has continued to keep developing the most efficient and advanced forms of weaponry. The U.S. is the leader in the technological revolution of the world and has to make sure that its trading and their policies are transparent for the whole world to overlook and ensure that regulations are rigorously implemented.

**Islamic State**

Seeing as the Islamic State is clearly ensued with civil wars and chaos, the Islamic States are consistently attempting to acquire the most fatal weapons available on the market. Getting a majority of weapons from other major countries through the black market, the Islamic States hoard and merge existing weapons to create new and more powerful weapons. Apart from obtaining weapons, they also burn off the serial numbers off these weapons to ensure that they don’t get traced back to the source.

**Russia**

Just like the United States, the Russian Federation is also in possession of high-tech weaponry. Drones and other surveillance vehicles are known to exist in the country as well. Tanks and missiles can also be added to the list; but the production of these machines are highly sophisticated which ultimately drains the labor units and resources that Russia has. Russia is also known to be in the process of developing robots which can be used to transport supplies between areas. They are also known to be equipped with machine guns that they can fire indefinitely.

**Timeline**
1934 National Firearms Act
1938 Federal Firearms Act
1968 Gun Control Act
1972 Biological Weapons Convention
1986 Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act 1986 Firearms Owner’s Protection Act
1993 Chemical Weapons Convention
1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act
1998 Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program was founded in the United States
2013 President Obama Proposes Sweeping Changes to Gun Control
2013 The Arms Trade Treaty passes in the United Nations

Possible Solutions

Revising Past Legislations

There have been legislations passed in history that effectively monitors the invention and trading of new weapons. Arms created have to be patented in detail to assure international committees of the powers that each newly created weapon has. But these regulations still do not rid of the insincere use of freshly designed machinery. To address this issue, amendments must be made to past bills to include the prohibition of changing identification of said weapons since this makes it harder to trade the source of the weapons during trade. Punishments and laws must be also annexed in relation to these new clauses to assure a more organized form of trade concerning new technologies.

Arms Trade Policies

Many different government bodies have set different laws concerning the trade of existing weapons as well as weapons that has freshly made it into the global market. With different laws in each country, the overall trade system concerning arms is incredibly inconsistent making it easy for dealers to find loopholes in the system. Creating one single agency with one single set of rules concerning the trading of new weapons as well as the old would decrease the rates of illegal arms trading and the constant improvement of the rules in this single legislation would regulate the trading of arms that have just been created as well.

Works Cited


