



Pat-MedMUNC III General Assembly

Establishing International Common Standards for the Transfer of Conventional Arms

Efforts to regulate international arms transfers at the global level has been on the international agenda since the early part of the 20th Century. In 1925 the League of Nations produced a draft Convention on the Arms Trade that was never adopted. In contrast to chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, which are governed by global conventions prohibiting their transfer, there are no global conventions or treaties prohibiting or restricting transfers of conventional weapons. In 2001, a group of Nobel Peace Laureates circulated a Draft Framework Convention on International Arms Transfers, which called for a universal, legally binding agreement governing arms transfers. An international campaign by NGOs to promote the establishment of global, legally binding treaty establishing common global transfer control standards followed, which lobbied UN member states to promote the issue amongst their peers.

Recent Developments

In December 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 61/89, established common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms by requesting that the Secretary-General would seek the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing these conditions. The Secretary General's report containing member states' views was published in 2007. A group of governmental experts convened in 2007 and 2008 to consider these views and recommended the need for further consultation between UN member states. In December 2008 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 63/240, which established an open-ended working group of UN member states to continue to address the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.

Points to Consider

- What part does your country play in the import, export, and transfer of conventional arms?
- What laws does your country have in regards to these regulations?
- How would regulations affect your country?