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of salws, while the

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Since the 1990s, many countries have worked tirelessly to develop an international convention to regulate the arms trade, finally culminating in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT was a watershed moment for DISEC and the General Assembly, in that the resolution encompassed provisions for regulating legal international trade pertaining to the wide range of conventional weaponry, including SALWs. Entered into force on 24 December 2014, it has been signed by 130 states to date, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France and Spain, countries which have traditionally been key exporters of armaments. To this end, it obligates member States to monitor the export of arms in order to ensure compliance with UN arms embargoes and to prevent arms from being used for purposes that undermine human rights, such as terrorism, via the implementation of enforceable, standardised regulations and tracing mechanisms on all weapons. Other mechanisms include the availability of assistance to State parties to the ATT when implementing the treaty- a voluntary trust fund is to be established by State parties for this purpose, and the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation has been launched to kick-start advocacy, universalisation and implementation of the ATT. However, the operation of low intensity conflict hinging on the prevalence of SALWs often features a wide spectrum of non-state actors, most of whom partake in the fluid exchange of weaponry and armaments between one another, especially from under the chaos of civil conflict. Especially in ongoing conflict states like Syria, many countries sponsor Syrian rebels against Assad's forces, but these armaments more often than not end up in

the hands of radical groups who might indulge in even more wanton destruction against society.

As the intensity of conflict increases, the definition of “contributing to crimes against humanity” takes on an ambiguity that has become notoriously hard to remove. While not directly connected to the ATT, several sets of international guidelines can also be considered. The International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) provide practical guidance on putting in place effective national controls over the full lifecycle of SALWs, while the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines constitute a frame of reference to achieve and demonstrate effective levels of safety and security of ammunition stockpiles. These standards provide a means by which multinational efforts to control and regulate the trade of SALWs may be assessed and analysed.