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**OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER OF THE DMUN FOUNDATION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

General Statement

Mr. Finlay Hamilton
Global Youth Representative
DMUN Foundation

11th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

AM 26 August 2025

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Thank you Mr. President/Chair for the floor.

I take the floor on behalf of the DMUN Foundation and 17 other youth organizations that have voluntarily aligned with our statement.

My name is Finlay Hamilton, I am 17 years old, and I serve as the Global Youth Representative for DMUN.

The accreditation of our delegation as the first youth-led observer organization in the history of the ATT is a landmark movement and is testament to the growing recognition of youth's pivotal role in international affairs. This is the first time that youth are substantively participating in this conference as independent rightsholders—and we trust that it will not be the last. In this light, we welcome Panama's promotion of youth inclusion measures.



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Mr. President, our stake in this matter is undeniable. One cannot overlook the fact that children and youth are among those most directly impacted by the flow of conventional arms. If the illicit arms tap is left running, it will be us and future generations who are left to drown.

But even now, in far too many places, armed violence disrupts our education, displaces our families, and denies us the fundamental right to grow up in safety.

That is why for young people like me, this Treaty represents an ideal: a collective promise for a safer, more just, and peaceful future.

Yet, for this ideal to truly manifest and withstand the test of time, it is imperative to listen and reach out to those who will inherit its legacy—youth. We would now take the time to briefly highlight a number of important considerations.

First, the diversion of arms fuels conflict, organized crime, and risks to children and youth. One billion small arms have circulated globally this century, contributing to 90% of women and child fatalities in conflict. Stockpiles must be secured to prevent misuse and illegal distribution.

Second, we highlight the human security dimension. Armed violence has shut down 14,364 schools in West and Central Africa, affecting 2.5 million children; over 1,000 schools in rural Southeast Asia; and an average of 330 school shootings annually in North America. Every child deserves to learn free from violence.

Third, we emphatically support further universalisation and transparency efforts. We also repudiate the operation of double standards and cases of apparent non-compliance, particularly with Articles 6 and 7. The treaty must be consistently applied according to legal obligations and following substantive evidence from



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international bodies, lest its credibility be undermined and faith in its efficacy dwindle. Violations of obligations cannot be ignored; discussions must take place and pressure must be exerted.

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, every dollar spent fueling conflict is a dollar stolen from education, climate action, and children's futures. Only through inclusive and accountable Treaty implementation can we build a world where no one is left behind.

We thank you.