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#### Topic A: Reducing the Illicit Arms Trade in Africa

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, cheap illegal arms have flooded the African continent and brought with them violence and destruction. In some countries, such as Somalia, the number of arms in the country are almost equivalent to the number of people living there. The *African Union Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by Year 2020* was conceived back in 2016, but this has failed to meet its target goal as there are still many ongoing conflicts happening on the continent today. The violence continues as a result of both external and internal arms sales in Africa. A combination of corruption, the criminal underworld and the terrain all make transporting small arms easy from country to country. This is not to mention the fact that in some states, producing homemade guns is a profitable source of income for many. In Ghana, for example, craft weapons are involved in 80 percent of gun-related crimes, according to the Ghana Police Service, while Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast ranked domestic craft weapons production as the most significant source of illicit arms. Another important factor is the involvement of China recently in the African continent. For example, some 2,000 Chinese troops are currently involved in UN peacekeeping missions in African countries like South Sudan and Mali. And it was in Djibouti, strategically located on the Gulf of Aden on Africa's east coast, where China established its first foreign military base in 2017. While the motive can never one hundred percent be clear, a large reason for the Chinese military presence in Africa is due to economic interests. China wants to help African states so that they will, in turn, support the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. Recently, Kenya opened the Chinese-built Madaraka Express railway, linking the port city of Mombasa with the capital, Nairobi. This was Kenya's biggest infrastructure project since independence and will surely help the economy grow.

The delegation of Argentina believes that the violence in Africa due to illegal arms sales can be mitigated through a ban on all additional arms and a gradual reduction of arms internally. Argentina would like to work together with other countries, especially ones who hold a majority of the arms and economic trade with Africa, to stop the violence. We would also like to foster greater economic growth inside the continent and give the people the ability to work and live without weapons.

To accomplish this, the delegation of Argentina proposes a six-step plan to curtail the violence and other negative consequences brought forth by illegal arms. First, the African Union and other international bodies should work together with the various federal governments, rebel groups, and warlords to call for an immediate armistice to ongoing conflicts. Next, we propose that the international community work together to enforce a ban of child soldiers in armed conflicts. In addition, we would also like to see stronger enforcement of arms embargoes to African states. Although arms embargoes have been placed in the past, we would like to

