Disarmament Commission (DC):

Topic 1: Regulating the Proliferation and Use of Ballistic Missile Systems in the Middle East

General Overview:

Considers the rapid development and utilization of ballistic missiles in the Middle East region, examining how their proliferation weakens existing international security and deterrence frameworks while increasing risks to civilians in the event of military escalation. Additionally, it assesses the efficacy of current non-proliferation and arms control regimes governing such systems.

Another contributing factor to the problem is the region's geographic characteristics since proximity of inter-state boundaries reduces the time needed for missiles to reach their target destinations. It creates an environment prone to quick escalation of tension due to the possibility of erroneous interpretations of missile launches. Additionally, uncertainties around the capabilities of the payload carried by the weapons, including its potential to be a non-conventional one, promote worst-case planning assumptions by the involved countries.

Furthermore, external aid and technology capable of dual use facilitate constant production of the weaponry despite existing regulations. Lack of adequate testing, deployment, and stockpiling oversight makes the situation even more complicated.

Subtopic 1: Regional Spread of Ballistic Missile Capabilities and Resulting Strategic Instability

Discusses the increasing proliferation of ballistic missile technologies among state and non-state actors within volatile regions and analyses how this proliferation destabilizes existing deterrence frameworks, accelerates regional arms races, and compresses decision-making time during crises, thereby increasing the risk of uncontrollable conflict escalation.

Moreover, participation of non-state actors in conflicts disrupts conventional deterrence models since these parties do not have the same rational and accountable approach as the states. At the same time, improvements in missiles' precision and versatility make pre-emptive attacks a plausible strategy for some governments. Overall, the security dilemma is generated where defence measures are perceived as an attack, causing the arms race and increasing instability in the region.

Subtopic 2: Civilian Impact of Ballistic Missile Strikes in Urban and Cross-Border Environments

Discusses the problems faced by governments in following the rules of distinction, according to the international humanitarian laws (IHL) when using high speed and large payload ballistic missiles near heavily populated territories and analyses the role of errors and destruction power in causing mass casualties and collateral damages amongst civilians.

Due to its lack of precision, missile attacks often harm civilians living in cities and surrounding military bases. Besides physical damages caused to the property, psychological impacts of the bombing and forced relocation create humanitarian problems in this context. Poorly developed response systems also limit recovery efforts of the impacted community members. Finally, cross-border attacks make it harder to trace violations of laws and hold the offenders responsible.

Subtopic 3: Evaluating Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Frameworks to Close Critical Gaps in Ballistic Missile Regulation

Examines the shortcomings of existing international missile proliferation control instruments, such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC), analysing the voluntary nature of these frameworks, the lack of binding enforcement measures, and the limited regulation of operational missile use under current agreements.

In general, frameworks regulating the use of weapons are limited by their non-binding character and weak enforcement procedures. While agreements pay little attention to actual uses of the arms, their implementation is based mostly on self-reporting which reduces their effectiveness of them. To address this issue, it is crucial to introduce new measures in terms of monitoring and verification, and consequences for non-compliance.

Topic 2: Addressing Illicit Small Arms Flows and Armed Group Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

General Overview:

Investigates the illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons across Sub-Saharan Africa, discussing the impact that such trafficking has on prolonging the violence carried out by armed groups, increasing civilian casualties, and exposing vulnerabilities within the international system and local governments attempting to control the spread of proliferation in conflict regions.

Illegal trading of weapons persists due to the lack of efficient systems, weak state control of weapons stockpiles, corruption, poor border infrastructure, and ongoing regional conflicts. As a result, illegal trading networks keep developing and flourishing.

Subtopic 1: Illegal Transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons Between Countries During Armed Conflicts

Exploring the role played by relaxed border security, corruption, and the existence of unregulated underground trade in ensuring the movement of weapons across borders into war zones and how continuous illicit flow keeps rearming the warring parties and perpetuating violence while also spilling over into neighbouring countries beyond the scope of arms control agreements.

Relaxed border controls and rough geography make monitoring and control hard, while unofficial channels enable smuggling of weapons together with other product. Corruption of officials adds to the difficulty of combating this, while organized crime networks facilitate the work of illegal trafficking operations. All of this contribute to inefficiency of single-state approaches to the issue at hand.

Subtopic 2: Impact of Small Arms Accessibility and Non-State Armed Group Activity on Civilians

Examines how easily available small arms and light weapons help warring factions escalate violence against civilians and the consequences thereof, including death tolls, population

displacement, and the gradual undermining of state legitimacy within the governance vacuum of such nations.

Widespread accessibility of small weapons lowers barriers for using them in conflict situations, accelerating the escalation. Such a trend causes long-term negative consequences for stability in the region in the form of displacement, deterioration of government and normalization of violence in the conflict zone. Recruiting youth to armed organizations exacerbates the issue, adding another obstacle to post-conflict peace building and demobilization.

Subtopic 3: Strengthening Enforcement Mechanisms and State Capacity in Arms Control Implementation

Analyses the weaknesses inherent in the design and implementation of arms control regimes, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), in terms of their enforcement clauses, capacity issues, and compliance challenges.

Lack of resources, undeveloped institutions, and insufficient technical knowledge make it hard to enforce the laws against weapon traffickers. In cases when appropriate legislation exists, implementation of the policies is inconsistent and unreliable.

Topic 3: Governing the Use of Military Force Against Commercial Maritime Shipping in the Red Sea–Gulf of Aden Maritime Corridor

General Overview:

Analyses the limitations placed upon the use of military force in the key global shipping route, looking at how conflict dynamics in the region, proliferation through non-state entities, and the inadequacy of international agreements together contribute to threats against civilians, instability within maritime trading, and enforcement shortcomings within naval arms control regimes.

Given the significance of the route for global economy, any disruptions in the functioning of this corridor immediately affect shipping costs and supply chains. Conflicts in Yemen facilitated the proliferation of naval weapons to non-state actors, posing a threat to commercial vessels operating in the area. Existing frameworks provide only general guidelines for addressing the problem and lack specific recommendations for dealing with such advanced technologies.

Subtopic 1: Proliferation of Anti-Ship Weapon Systems Among Non-State Actors

Assesses the proliferation of anti-ship missiles, naval drones, and explosive watercrafts to non-state actors operating within the Red Sea–Gulf of Aden shipping corridor, determining how proliferation contributes to regional insecurity, increases the risk of maritime conflicts, and highlights the major shortcomings in arms control regimes pertaining to naval weapons.

The possession of naval equipment of a higher class by non-state actors dramatically changes the dynamic of the maritime conflict. First of all, such capabilities allow them to carry out more attacks on merchant ships away from the coastline. Moreover, they make identification and response actions much harder for states. Methods of covert distribution enable this process to continue without being intercepted.

Subtopic 2: Regulation of Naval Weapon Systems in Commercial Maritime Zones

Considers current limitations imposed on the deployment and use of anti-ship missiles, naval mines, and naval drones in commercial shipping corridors, identifying how enforcement issues, jurisdiction questions, and lack of international oversight contribute to additional challenges for civilian craft in the world's most strategically significant maritime corridor.

Legal and operational difficulties include lack of coordination between navies in operations as well as complex jurisdiction over certain water territories. Uncertainty around legality of the use of force creates a disincentive to respond to pirate activities. Such obstacles reduce overall effectiveness of maritime countermeasures undertaken by states.

Subtopic 3: Gaps in International Control of Maritime Weapon Transfers and Deployment

Examines the lack of binding international regimes controlling the transfer, storage, and deployment of naval weapons systems in international waters, analyzing how monitoring shortcomings, jurisdictional restrictions, and poor state compliance together hinder attempts to create a comprehensive arms control regime for naval weaponry in commercial shipping areas.

Weaknesses of the current legal instruments used to regulate naval weapons include their fragmentation and inefficiency of enforcement. Due to limited capability of conducting monitoring, regulation of vast ocean territories is rather problematic for many states.