***Delegation from Represented by***

**The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia University of Heidelberg**

***Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee (GA1)***

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Macedonia) stresses the importance of the following issues: I. The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament; II. Global Nuclear Disarmament; III. Increasing Women’s Role in Disarmament and Nonproliferation. Bearing in mind Macedonia’s aspirations to become a member of the European Union (EU), and the high ethical standards the EU was founded on, not simply by fate but by shared values, Macedonia is devoted to a global solution with its fellow Member States.

**I. The Role of Science and Technology in International Security and Disarmament**

Macedonia emphasizes the chance of science and technology as a vital role in international security and disarmament: Technological approach can be crucial when it comes to finding illegally held weapons. In this respect especially, Macedonia points out that neither on a national, nor an international level, there are existing measures and institutions that have yet been able to solve this problem by using science and technology. Macedonia is committed to accelerating development in the field of science and technology because Macedonia today still struggles with disarmament, especially on a **regional** level. The *Small Arms Survey by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies* suggests a high level of firearm and ammunition smuggling in Macedonia. And although exact numbers of unlawfully held guns in Macedonia do not exist, estimated numbers vary from 170,000 to 500,000 people holding one or more weapons. With respect to the small population of only 2 million people, this number is an enormous threat to Macedonia’s national security. Historically, this large number mostly results from the armed conflict between Albanian insurgents and security forces. Considerung the estimated number of unreported cases in illegally held weapons spread across the Balkan region, Macedonia is convinced that global success in the field of regional disarmament through science and technology is based on the following premise: **Think globally, act locally**. Macedonia believes that only the **sum of small and gradual steps** rather than a centralized approach will culminate in big change. As a **short-term solution**, Macedonia seeks adequate knowledge on the number, location and kind of illegally held weapons in the country so that strategic solutions can be evolved based on the actual extent of the problem. Science and technology therefore need to be applied in the form of data collection and registration. Macedonia hopes to develop a data evaluation program with the help from the *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research* (UNIDIR) as its high standard of scientific and technological expertise are indispensable to the elaboration of data systems. As a **medium-term solution**, it has to be taken into account that the *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs* (UNODA)’s three branches cover regions Macedonia is not part of: Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia/Asia-Pacific and Africa. Therefore, Macedonia needs the UNODA’s assistance. Not only Macedonia, but a lot of other Balkan States, as well, had (civil) wars in the past and have illegal weaponry problems. The shared history of the Balkan States is a political obligation. Only a greater level of interconnectedness will raise public awareness and simplify collaborative solutions as a problem shared is a problem halved. This can only be achieved by the establishment of a UNODA regional institution for Macedonia’s geographical region: Namely an Eastern European Area/Balkan UNODA. As a **long-term solution**, Macedonia stresses the importance of worldwide prevention methods: Especially the export of weapons into hotspots of terrorism and crises must absolutely be banned. In a long series of failed measures, Macedonia has had to painfully experience that no other methods are sufficient: When e.g. military presence was provided through an operation by the *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* (NATO) forces, huge arsenals were left spread across the country. During a campaign to seize illegally held weapons in private homes in 2011, in total, only two guns, one mine and a few dozen bits of ammunition were collected by the police. When laws that granted gun owners to hand over their guns or apply for a permit were amended, these too, failed to make a difference. Therefore, Macedonia recalls its acceptance in 2001 to a consensus decision of the UN to adopt, back and transfer the *UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons* (PoA SALW) in all its aspects and therefore supports and wishes to implement the permanent ban of exports of weapons into hotspots of crises.

**II. Global Nuclear Disarmament**

In the past, the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) had engaged in a political program including nuclear energy and weapons. After the collapse of the Tito regime, however, Macedonia has prided itself on neither producing nor possessing nuclear energy nor weapons. Despite its small geographical size and political relevance in issues of global impact, Macedonia pursues the goal of serving as a role model for those aiming at achieving a nuclear-free-world. One of the most essential milestones in pursuing this goal has been the accession of the *Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) in 1995. Moreover, Macedonia has been a fully supportive member of the *International Atomic Energy Agency* (IAEA) since 1994, and has since guaranteed to devote its commitment to the major responsibilities and initiatives of the IAEA which are focused on the establishment of an order of **global nuclear security**. Additionally, Macedonia sponsors the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty* (CTBT). However, this can only be a step in the direction of an ultimately nuclear-free-world. Internationally made promises need to be factually kept, not only formally signed. Therefore, as **short-term solution**, Macedonia has two propositions: The first priority is to make all Member States formally sign the NPT. The second is the entry into force of the CTBT that Macedonia signed in 2000. Macedonia’s goal must be to have the policies of the aforementioned treaties factually enacted. Therefore, an annual and international *Summit of Global Nuclear Disarmament* must be brought into life as a platform of transparent communication and mutual trust and control. Hereby, reassurance can be guaranteed through control mechanisms, common conditions and sanction systems. Furthermore, factual political pressure will be created - this is vital as the possession of nuclear weapons still generates power that is ironically being misused to generate security. As **medium-term solution**, Macedonia calls for nuclear non-proliferation (in the sense of the *1540 Committee*) and disarmament by those states currently spreading a frightening public image as a protective shield against military intervention. Macedonia calls for a change in the mindset of these states’ leaders in order to create an international community of confidence by abiding the production of new weapons and their public display. This obstacle in the way towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world, Macedonia plans to surpass through a *Control System* *for the Gradual Reduction of Nuclear Weapons*. As a gradual system regarding each Member States’ current inventory of nuclear weapons, this system would lead those displaying their power the most, to withdraw from this act the fastest. Each Member State would then have a person in power to supervise the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons in the respective country, and would then report on the progress at the *Summit of Global Nuclear Disarmament* where results would be evaluated*.* As a way to convince those affected most by the C*ontrol System for the Gradual Reduction of Nuclear Weapons* to support this plan, Macedonia urges all Member States to remember the values they agreed upon, which are peace and protection. As a **long-term solution**, Macedonia finally calls for the complete dismantling of all nuclear weapons. The UNODA should therefore work on making Planet Earth one nuclear-weapon-free-zone with the help of all Member States which Macedonia proposes to achieve with a resolution that turns the attention to a liaison with the UNODA. Macedonia’s peaceful position towards disarmament and international security, in general, dates back to the General Assembly Resolution 1378 (XIV) from 1959 on *“General and Complete Disarmament”* which was the first resolution co-sponsored by all Member States. After almost 60 years, GA1 adopted a resolution L.41 last year to continue negotiations in 2017 on a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination“. This new resolution should implement these exact shared values. Only the complete destruction of all WMDs once and for all will lead to world peace and security. This, in turn, can only be done by an entirely new approach towards multilateral leadership based on mutual trust and at eye-level. Macedonia, as a nuclear-free nation, can only emphasize its dedication to a nuclear-free world.

**III. Increasing Women’s Role in Disarmament and Nonproliferation**

Macedonia recognizes two main pillars towards the increased role of women in disarmament and nonproliferation. First, women should be provided more positions as policy-makers and guides on the path of disarmament. Second, women who have been exposed to violence and oppression should be protected. Increasing women’s role in disarmament and nonproliferation is a central aspect as to Macedonia’s history and development. Today, Macedonia is commonly seen as customarily patriarchal - a country where women make up only 37 % of the labor force, the number of men in manager roles is higher than that of women, although there are more women with PhDs and Master’s degrees, and one of six countries in the world where the gender gap has grown since 2005 and any representation of women in the government is due to electoral quotas. But this was not always the case. During the Insurgency in 2001, the armed conflict with an Albanian militant group in Macedonia, women were leaders in both negotiations and decision-making processes. It is Macedonia’s goal to take up the progressive position it once had. The tendency in Macedonia is that the unfortunately still so-called weaker sex wants to stand on the front lines in the wave of uprisings and social discontent, following the leaving of the socialist kingdom: In 2015, Macedonia’s first women’s revolution took place. As a **short-term solution**, Macedonia will continue to use quotas domestically to ensure women’s representation. But more importantly, Macedonia would like to write a resolution with the support to also have other nations develop these quotas in their national disarmament programs. As **medium-term solution**, the Macedonian’s and the other Member States’ mindset needs to change. Macedonia’s approach is to provide special training programs in order to promote women’s nominations for political representation which has also been recommended in the report of the *Expert Group Meeting on Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Processes* (EGM/EPDM /2005/REPORT). Furthermore, Macedonia aims at solving these issues through special trainings of teachers for gender-sensitivity and a larger focus on including and encouraging young women. This educational approach has already worked in changing the belief that Albanian women, a minority in Macedonia, should stay at home. But a change of mind is one thing - a change of state the other. Therefore, as a **long-term solution**, Macedonia strongly believes that the topic of gender equality must be handed from the heights of political parliamentarism, directly to the people in order to make it more tangible. This can only be achieved by financial supporting programs for political and social organizations for gender equality. The intensified connection between politics and Civil Rights organizations must seed a democratic culture of debate which will let political grassroots movements grow. The women’s mindset is ready, the country is not.