**Καρτέλα 1**

**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

**Issue:** Addressing the Rise of Transnational Gangs and their Impact on Global Security and Human Trafficking in the Somalian Gulf

**Student Officer:** Karali Paraskevi

**Position:** Co-chair

**PERSONAL INTRODUCTIONS**

Dear delegates,

My name is Karali Paraskevi, I am an 11" grade student at The Arsakeio High School of Thessaloniki and I feel honored to be serving as a co-chair of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1) in this year's DSTMUN conference.

Having said the aforementioned, I would like to welcome you to the 8th DSTMUN Conference! During this year's conference you will become familiar with current political affairs, understand the ramifications they may have on global peace and security, collaborate with fellow delegates, come up with solutions that will benefit the international community and ,of course, form friendships and have fun.

Now, without further ado, I will explain how to use the information provided to you through this study guide efficiently. The second topic of this year's Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1) is "Addressing the Rise of Transnational Gangs and their Impact on Global Security and Human Trafficking in the Somalian Gulf". The following study guide should give you an overall understanding of the topic, highlight important events, countries and organizations involved as well as key-factors that have led to the present situation. However I would highly recommend that you enhance your research on the topic, using the links and resources found below and others that you may find.Furthermore, since you represent a country you should search your delegation's position/policy on the topic and any relation it may have to it.

Lastly, I would like to give you a tip for the conference, be as prepared as you can and enjoy it as much as possible, participate and don't let fear hold you back!

If any questions regarding the first topic,, the committee or the conference as a whole arise, don't hesitate to contact me via this email [evakarali2009@icloud.com](mailto:evakarali2009@icloud.com).

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Sincerely,

Karali Paraskevi

**TOPIC INTRODUCTION**

The spread of transnational crime and the rise of transnational gangs are some of the most significant security challenges that governments face globally in this day and ageTransnational gangs, the mafia and drug cartels engage in multiple illegal activities. These include drug smuggling and production, human trafficking and smuggling, piracy, arms proliferation and extortion. Such actions have visible social, political, national and international security repercussions. Gangs’ actions can lead to human rights violations, affect public health, increase violence, impact the legitimate livelihoods of persons, and support terrorism, while also creating tensions among governments, trying to deescalate the situation.[[1]](#footnote-0) Their illegal activities tend to have a large amount of annual value. For instance, counterfeiting is around 1.13 trillion USD, Drug trafficking is 652 billion USD and Human Trafficking is 150.2 billion USD.[[2]](#footnote-1)

The Somalian Gulf is located in the Indian ocean, between Yemen to the north, the Arabian Sea to the east, Djibouti to the west and Putland, Somalia and Somaliland to the south, as depicted in the map below.[[3]](#footnote-2) It is inevitably the most fundamental growing spot for human trafficking gangs in Africa and the Middle East, since the Somalian Gulf connects the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea, thus making the Gulf a perfect migration passage for migrants to reach their desired destination. Transnational Organized crime in the region is mostly committed by human trafficking and smuggling gangs and gangs that perform illegal arms commerce, which pose extensive security threats in the region. These often work with local gangs, pirates or citizens, to perform arms and drugs trade and collect victims for human trafficking.

**Figure 1: Map showing the location of the Gulf of Aden, located between Yemen and Somalia. Nearby bodies of water include the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.[[4]](#footnote-3)**

Furthermore, illegal immigrants, facing displacement, substandard conditions and marginalisation, opt to seek traffickers’ assistance as a last resort to reach Europe, the Middle East or Africa. Later, they are more susceptible to exploitation, abduction, torture, abuse and other cruel punishments .During the migrationprocess, they become victims of trafficking. As a result, a large number of Eritrean, Somali and Ethiopian migrants who transit through Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Libya, Egypt, or Yemen as they migrate towards the Middle East or Europe get exploited in these transit countries, and become trafficking victims.[[5]](#footnote-4) Approximately 80% of the victims are children.[[6]](#footnote-5) Human trafficking Gangs use these individuals to enhance their influence, increase their ranks, cause fear and control communities that way and make financial profit.

It's important to distinguish TOC from Transnational Gangs. TOC is subjective and can take many forms, its illegal practices coordinated across national borders, involving groups or markets of individuals working in more than one country to plan and execute illegal business ventures.[[7]](#footnote-6) Transnational Gangs are the ones that mostly cause TOC by engaging in illegal businesses and activities that mostly involve: drug trafficking, counterfeiting, piracy, human and arms trafficking. Such Transnational Gangs present in the region are the Hobyo-Haradhere cartel, Al- Shabaad, Houthis in Yemen, Al Qaeda and ISIS-Somali, posing a great threat to national and international security.

Lastly, recent UN reports showcase that small arms claim over 700 lives daily. Between 2015 and 2021, intentional homicides surpassed conflict-related deaths globally. In 2021, firearms were responsible for 40% of violent deaths worldwide, and nearly 70% in some regions[[8]](#footnote-7). Moreover, the 2021 US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report lists Somalia as a Special Case for the 19th consecutive year. At least five of the top 25 countries crippled by organized crime and gangs, often brokered by state officials and their clients, are in the Arab world. The aforementioned have resulted in security related concerns to raise and the issue demanding urgent action and global cooperation.

**DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

**Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)**

This term refers to“ A multi-billion-dollar industry that operates across borders, exploiting vulnerable people and undermining global security. Criminal networks engage in a wide range of illicit activities, including money laundering, the illegal trade in firearms, and trafficking in humans, organs, drugs, natural resources, wildlife, and even waste.”[[9]](#footnote-8)

**Transnational gangs**

This term refers to “A group of three or more individuals, who have a common bond, establish territorial turf, and regularly conduct gang-related criminal activity.”[[10]](#footnote-9)

**Gangs**

The term "criminal gang’’ refers to any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts, having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity."[[11]](#footnote-10)

**Human Trafficking**

This term refers to “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.”[[12]](#footnote-11)

**Somalian Gulf / Gulf of Aden**

“The Gulf of Aden, located to the north of Somalia, is a significant body of water that connects the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea and plays a crucial role in maritime trade and the economy of Somalia.”[[13]](#footnote-12)

**Gulf Corporation Council (GCC)**

This term refers to“ a regional, intergovernmental, political, and economic union and military alliance comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.” [[14]](#footnote-13)

**Piracy**

This term refers to “the act of attacking ships in order to steal from them”[[15]](#footnote-14).

**Smuggling**

This term refers to “the act or process of taking things or people to or from a place secretly and often illegally.”.[[16]](#footnote-15)

**Cartels**

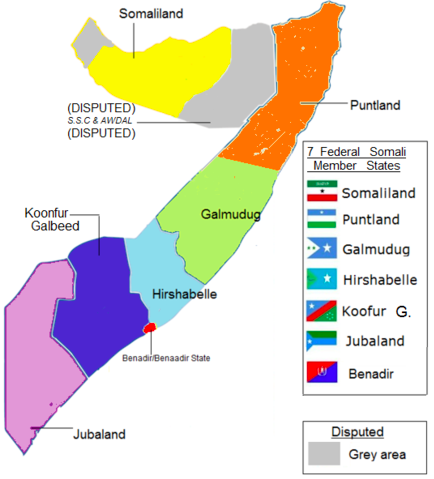
This term refers to"a criminal [organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organized_crime) composed of independent [drug lords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drug_lord) who [collude](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collude) with each other in order to improve their profits and dominate the [illegal drug trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade).”.[[17]](#footnote-16)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Fall of Siad Barre’s government**

In January of 1991, Siad Barre’s government collapsed.Until the establishment of the transitional National Government in 2006, Somalia had no central Government. During this period Somalia has been described as a real-world stateless society and as a country with no legal system. After the government's fall, the Somali National Army dissolved and numerous clan-based militias and armed factions competed for control. [[18]](#footnote-17)Somalia was fragmented by zones, controlled by different groups each, undermining state capacity. As a result law and order did not exist during this period, and TOC networks and gangs flourished.[[19]](#footnote-18) This governmental absence gave Transnational gangs the opportunity to perform their illegal activities, without facing legal consequences.[[20]](#footnote-19)It resulted in a rise in arms smuggling, human trafficking, piracy, illegal taxation, and other criminal enterprises driven by the absence of a functioning state. [[21]](#footnote-20)

**Formation of the new Somalian Government**

Somalia is currently a Federal State composed of two levels of government: the federal government and the federal member states (FMS).[[22]](#footnote-21) Federal Member States may not be fully independent but they possess their own constitutions and armed forces.There are six (6) federal member states, which form the Federal Government of Somalia along with Banadir Regional Administration (BRA). [[23]](#footnote-22)The ones most relevant to the topic at hand are Puntland and Somaliland. Even though Somaliland has self-declared independence it is not recognized internationally and it functions “de-facto”. Because the Somalian Government is uninfluential and does not have full control over its territories, it is susceptible to the influence of TOC and as a result corruption is prominent within the nation.

**Figure 2: Map of the Federal Member States of Somalia[[24]](#footnote-23)**

**Current situation**

The Somali state currently suffers from weak governance and corruption, with the Corruption Perception Index showing 91/100 points for public corruption in the country.[[25]](#footnote-24) State officials are entangled with gangs and their activities such as gatekeeping illegal activities in exchange for bribes, and the misappropriation of international assistance. Correspondingly, transnational gangs, criminal interests, groups, communities, and militias have penetrated into the entire state. Corruption and collusion affect custom authorities and border guards and facilitate smuggling activities. This corrupt behavior mostly affects small-scale traders and poor women being forced to pay bribes.

When corruption reaches the highest levels of a nation's government, gangs will essentially commandeer the nation. Not only does the collapse of authority cause people to lose trust in the government, but it also results in people putting their trust in TOC and gangs. Somalia’s inability to establish a strong legitimate government has led to the increase of illegal activities and instability. A stable government is imperative to combat this rise. Otherwise, individual state officials will continue to operate alone and be corrupted by greed and the need for survival.[[26]](#footnote-25)

### TOC vs. Governments

In periods when governments are unstable, criminal groups and gangs take over or the increase of organized crime activity leads to the loss of a government's authority. In both of these cases, the security consequences of withstanding gangs, involved in TOC, are impactful and in some cases life-threatening, since these gangs will commit heinous crimes in order to protect and maintain their own interests.

Firstly, a tactic they use involves cooperation with complicit or even corrupt governments. Gangs like Al-Shabaad and ISI-Somalia use this strategy because, by collaborating with governments they do not need to beware of governmental intervention, such as arrest or investigations,, and they can utilize the power of the state for their own purposes. In other words, there is no need to worry about facing consequences for their actions and they can focus on illegal activities and operate with impunity. Gangs focus on collaborating with corrupt governments that mostly show little to no resistance towards them. Working with uninfluential governments facilitates their business since they know the government is unable to resist their supporting power and will entertain their wishes.[[27]](#footnote-26)

In the opposite case, where governments do not decide to cooperate, gangs and criminal groups utilize measures like coercion and extreme violence, such as kidnapping, gun battles with security forces and property vandalism, against the authorities. An already weakened state will only be further strained. Without the ability to combat TCO, states are susceptible to falling completely under the influence of criminals. The damage caused by gangs can strain the government so much that an entire nation ends up driven close to failure. Notably, individual officials have no intention of fighting against them, since they have little motive to lead the fight against TCO, as it could result in them and their families being [killed](https://apnews.com/article/caribbean-mexico-police-f6ea7798ca3cc171ac13b3a5a6a6c266?ref=hir.harvard.edu), especially when the central authority provides little support and shows no interest in the matter.

It is common practice for gangs that practise TOC during times of great political instability and crises to gain the citizens' trust, thus becoming stronger and more powerful. When the government's instability prevents it from providing for its people, they often seek help from the Mafia, Cartels or criminal groups for protection and the resolution of civil disputes.

In Haiti, even the violent and dangerous gangs offer something that the government shows an inability to provide for its citizens, stability. With a functioning government being absent in Haiti, the gangs [provide](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/12/haiti-crisis-jovenel-moise-gangs-water-way-out?ref=hir.harvard.edu) fundamental governmental services in the regions they control, while securing their own gain and profit, just as military groups and gangs do in Somalia.

Citizens have gang affiliations or know people that do and approach gangs through them. In addition to their repeated acts of violence, gangs can provide a blanket of security in a country where law is considered non-existent. Commonly, they often extort money in exchange for that protection. As a matter of fact, in this case, gangs and criminal groups often come to replace basic governmental functions and win over the local residents. By doing so, they secure their control over people, allowing them to better manipulate locals and expand their influence and power.

Last but not least, it is considered rare for gangs to aim to obtain governmental sovereignty over a nation, since transitioning into a narco-state would trigger international action. This would most likely result in full-scale military intervention, but gangs, obviously, don't wish to engage in such conflict nor to draw attention to themselves. They simply seek to maintain control over territories and profit from illegal activities, while not getting noticed.

**Threats posed by TOC**

Transnational crime is a threat to not only security but also to development, governance, and stability. It is one of the biggest challenges the region can face. Specifically, it can have the following consequences[[28]](#footnote-27)

**Exploitation of Children**

It is considered common practice for traffickers to recruit children, mostly immigrants in need of transportation, by using false promises that no payment will be required until they reach their final destination. [[29]](#footnote-28)end up being transported along with Somali women, sometimes via Djibouti, to the Middle East, where they regularly become victims of forced labor, including in domestic service and sex trafficking.[[30]](#footnote-29)Amnesty International has reported that 50% of gang members are children, many under 8 years of age.[[31]](#footnote-30) Children view having gang affiliations as a “safe haven” for them and as a solution to not face displacement and poverty. Fear is a great motive for them, since they are [pressured](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/12/children-in-haiti-falling-prey-to-gruesome-gang-violence-amnesty-warns) to follow orders afraid that their families will be killed if they do otherwise.[[32]](#footnote-31) Furthermore, military gangs often recruit children as combatants in militias that focus on the fight against TOC.

**Raise of illicit trade and drug commerce**

Illicit trade affects all global, as well as regional powers. To put it differently, the world's biggest economies are also the biggest markets for illicit trade, while the smaller and weaker ones help with their transportation and production. Because we are dealing with major nations and powers, the assistance of their leaders to help the United Nations fight organized crime more efficiently is crucial. Although the smuggling and proliferation of arms tends to be irregular, the amounts have been enormous. The Somalian Gulf hosts one of the most pervasive illegal arms trafficking markets in Africa. The number of illicit weapons circulating in the region, ranging from small arms and light weapons to assault rifles, is significant and involves various types of criminal groups and gangs. Studies indicate that security threatening incidents in the region are manifested by proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) (75%) and protracted armed conflict (65%).[[33]](#footnote-32)

**Human trafficking**

In some of the world’s impoverished countries ordinary people end up trapped in these illicit economies as they try to make a living with a lack of possible alternatives. In most cases trafficking networks are organized by a synthesis of Somali, Djiboutian, Eritrean, and North African traffickers.[[34]](#footnote-33) They continually recruit individuals through social media platforms, by glamorizing their causes and messaging individuals and offering them jobs. Their level of network sophistication is growing at a dangerous rate.

**The Gulfs Importance[[35]](#footnote-34)**

**A Gateway Between Continents**

Somalia is the longest mainland in Africa and borders some of the world’s most important maritime routes in international commerce. The Somalian Gulf sees over 20,000 ships every year, adhering to its needs and it facilitates 10% of global trade.[[36]](#footnote-35)

**Balancing Global Powers**

Recently the Gulf has been targeted by global powers, such as The United States, China and Russia. All of them seek to ensure their dominance and financial influence in the region. The Gulfs governments have managed these relationships, using them to secure foreign investments while maintaining its sovereignty.

**Regional Diplomacy and Rivalries**

The relationships between the countries of the Gulf are crucial for facilitating regional stability. Maritime disputes, however, particularly with Kenya, remain a frequent issue.

**Impacts on Global Security**

The Gulf has severely deteriorated security in the region, mostly maritime, piracy and mainland conflicts, raising the number of vessels by 50% that pass through the gulf. The political instability in Yemen and Somalia, contribute to the surge of piracy. The gulf security situation in the region negatively affects intercontinental commerce[[37]](#footnote-36)

**Countering Extremism and Ensuring Stability**

As a primary state in the global fight against extremism, Somalia is important in ensuring security and stability in the Horn of Africa. It has also partnered with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia to stabilize key regions, even though challenges persisted.[[38]](#footnote-37)

**Transnational Gangs and TOCs Goals and Motives**

The primary goal of these criminal groups and gangs is to justify and defend their power. This involves fighting to displace the central authority, but they often collaborate with central governments, as it furthers their own goal of profit. Transnational crime is often viewed as a business. Money is the primary motivation for these illegal activities. Of the 11 illicit activities studied, counterfeiting ($923 billion to $1.13 trillion) and drug trafficking ($426 billion to $652 billion) have the highest and second-highest annual values, respectively; illegal logging is the most valuable natural resource crime ($52 billion to $157 billion).[[39]](#footnote-38)They also chase wealth and money through participation in migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking, illegal gambling, extortion, creating and selling counterfeit goods, wildlife and cultural property smuggling and cyber crime. All of the above mentioned are lucrative and provide enormous amounts of wealth to gangs, while they make “easy money”.[[40]](#footnote-39)

**MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED**

**Somalia**

The country is severely strained by transnational gangs and TOC, in the form of piracy, human, arms and drug trafficking. Men and women of all ages unwillingly participate in forced labour or sex trafficking. Frequently, human trafficking in Somalia begins as smuggling, later transforming into trafficking. Al-Shabaab remains the primary threat to Somalia’s security, conducting frequent attacks on government facilities, military installations, and civilian targets.

Somalia has shown that it can contribute little in tackling human trafficking in its region, due to its unstable political situation and the corruption it faces. This becomes evident by its inability to modernise its penal code which has been the same since 1960.[[41]](#footnote-40) Somalia has very limited and insufficient laws on human trafficking, although the country suffers from terrorist groups and gangs such as Al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia, raising its human trafficking rate to 8.0/10 and its smuggling rate to 7.5/10.[[42]](#footnote-41)

Moreover, extortion and protection racketeering are well-known sources of profit for gangs that are performed through citizens. It is also common for companies and NGOs to pay extortion fees to them, to ensure their personal and physical protection.[[43]](#footnote-42) Gangs in Somalia engage in TOC through having affiliations with citizens and corrupt government officials, facilitating their insertion into society. Meanwhile, the prevalence of Al-Shabaab makes Somalia one of the states most dominated by mafia-style gangs.[[44]](#footnote-43)

**Somaliland**

Somaliland is a region of destination, transit and origin for victims of international, domestic and local human trafficking. The victims are trafficked for domestic work, forced prostitution and organ removal. Personal interviews with victims show a pattern of trafficking where Somali women, who reside in Somaliland and are members of gangs, act as recruiters and mediators to take the victims to Djibouti and Ethiopia for the purpose of domestic servitude and organ removal. Capacity gaps in policy and legal frameworks allow gangs to penetrate into governmental authority.[[45]](#footnote-44)

Somaliland's relations with Somalia are complicated and deeply rooted in historical, political, and economic contexts. Before 1960 Somaliland was a British territory and Somalia was an Italian territory. They both gained independence that year and formed the unified Somali Republic. But after a military group in 1969 brought Siad Barre to power, the situation between them deteriorated and after the Somali Civil war, the Somalian National Movement declared Somaliland’s independence. The situation between the two countries remains tense, since FGS considers Somaliland part of its territory, along with the rest of the world. There have been some inconclusive dialogues with several attempts at negotiations over the years. However, these talks have not led to any significant breakthroughs, leaving the relations of Somaliland- Somalia unresolved.[[46]](#footnote-45)

**Yemen**

In Yemen smuggling and human trafficking gangs commit horrific violations and abuses against African migrants. [[47]](#footnote-46)Statements narrate that these cross-border crimes are often delivered with the complicity of security officials affiliated with factions in the Yemeni conflict, who accept incentives to put these operations in motion without legal consequences. In Yemen alone, smuggling gangs are estimated to generate millions in annual revenue.[[48]](#footnote-47) Other TOC activities gangs engage into are arms proliferation, drug and weapons smuggling and piracy. Yemeni gangs, the Houthis and AQAP cooperate with Somali militant groups and pirate gangs, thus showing the interconnected nature of gang affiliations, insurgency, and transnational organized crime in the country.[[49]](#footnote-48)

Yemen has been facing security threats from a military and political organization called Houthis. These rebels are known for hijacking commercial ships in the Red Sea and for launching [missile and drone attacks](https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-israel-hamas-red-sea-shipping-ab6fee82e73170b7e2edbab90ed6c14c) against commercial and military ships in the region in what the group’s leadership has described as an [effort to end](https://apnews.com/video/israel-hamas-war-yemen-red-sea-rebellions-and-uprisings-yemen-government-35148e6fbef64ec8b6fa074d4da2551c) Israel’s offense against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.[[50]](#footnote-49)Their actions have greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees $1 trillion of goods move through it annually. The Houthis collaborate with arm and human trafficking gangs. They also overlap with formal security structures and the government. Lastly, gangs in Yemen have deeply influenced its government and nearly every government office is connected to gangs and rooted in corruption. That way laws against organized crime are not implemented.

**Djibouti**

Djibouti is a country of source, transit, and destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Victims mainly come from Ethiopia and Somalia and are later transported to the Arabian Peninsula by traffickers. Gangs penetrate into its government through judicial services, which are highly corrupt state officials. It is possible some trafficking crimes are ignored due to bribery. Even though trafficking slowed down significantly during the COVID-19, it has since increased, above pre-COVID-19 levels due to conflict and food shortages in Ethiopia. [[51]](#footnote-50)

There have been endeavors to mitigate the phenomenon. For instance, the Djibouti National Police (DNP) devoted a specialized unit to investigating human trafficking against children, including child trafficking. The MOJ, in partnership with international organizations, provided anti-trafficking training seminars to judges, prosecutors, clerks, and advisors at the National School for Judicial Studies (ENEJ) in the country. [[52]](#footnote-51)

**United states of America (USA)**

The United States is not directly linked to human trafficking in the area, but it has stated its opposition to the phenomenon. Since 2011, the United States has provided $253 million in development assistance to economic, political, security and social sectors to achieve greater stability and capacity-building, obtain access to basic services, and attain representation through legitimate, credible governance.[[53]](#footnote-52) Moreover, U.S. foreign policy objectives in Somalia are to promote political and economic stability, prevent the use of Somalia as a safe haven for international terrorism, and ease the humanitarian crisis caused by years of conflict, drought, flooding, and poor governance. The USA is facing the threat of gangs like: Crips, Bloods, Latin Kings, MS-13, and the Mexican Mafia. Relating to the problem it is willing to provide assistance.[[54]](#footnote-53)

**Russian Ferridaration**

Russia aims to reestablish a Soviet-era military presence in the Galmudug and Puntland Administrative Regions of Somalia (GARS) region, considering locations along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, to secure maritime routes, and counter Western influence. Russia has been trying to establish naval bases in Djibouti and Somaliland. Given the growing geopolitical competition in the region, Russia’s interest in diversifying its military and economic engagements reflects a pragmatic approach to securing its long-term strategic interests. Its presence in African affairs is driven primarily by national interests linked to the continent.[[55]](#footnote-54) Organized crime gangs are widespread in Russia, with mafia-style gangs such as the Chechen Mafia, Solntsevo Group, Orekhovskaya Group, and others operating both domestically and internationally. These gangs exploit or have affiliation with police officers, judges and political structures and penetrate into the government by offering them bribes**[[56]](#footnote-55)**

**United Nations Offices on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

UNODC has contributed significantly as the primary organization in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling for over 20 years. Its actions began after the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[[57]](#footnote-56) and its Protocols against these crimes. UNODC has trained over 35,000 anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling specialists, helped investigate and prosecute hundreds of cases, and supported the enforcement of maritime law in Putland to mitigate the illicit arms flow. It has also provided technical training to prevent vessels trafficking illegal weapons.

**Al-Shabaab**

Al-Shabaab has engaged in acts that pose a threat to the peace, security, or stability of Somalia, as well as acts that threaten the Djibouti Agreement of August 18, 2008,[[58]](#footnote-57) the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and many more international peacekeeping operations related to Somalia. It is forcibly hiring young people and children to join the fight against the Government in Mogadishu, while plotting sexual slavery and forced marriage. It reaches citizens through mosques and social platforms, while pursuing affiliations with police officers and government officials through bribes, to gain a foothold into government control. [[59]](#footnote-58)It operates as part of a larger transnational criminal business and cooperates with smaller gangs, engaging in illicit trafficking, extortion, and organized crime. The group has infiltrated many areas of Somali society and commits serious abuses, including extorting so-called taxes through threats.

**ISIS-Somalia**

Human trafficking is an effective tool that serves multiple purposes for ISIS-Somalia. It facilitates the recruitment and control of male foreign fighters and provides a reward mechanism for successful soldiers. ISIS kidnaps and enslaves Yazidi women and other female prisoners. ISIS recruits members from European criminal groups.[[60]](#footnote-59)It has authoritarian and territorial control ambitions, forming "Islamic State" governance structures in areas it controls.[[61]](#footnote-60)

**Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**

Countries of The GCC have applied the Kafala system, which involves employees being strongly attached to their employers. This has devolved to a system through which the governments of those nations control migrant labour flows into the region. They mostly do this, by giving authority and responsibility for migrant laborers to private citizens and firms, which sometimes cooperate with trafficking gangs. This gives sponsors complete control over the migrant workers visa status and their mobility. That way, migrant and refugee workers are not protected under the GCC’s labour rights laws and are glued within the limitations of the Kafala System. Trafficking in this context is state-sanctioned.

**BLOCS EXPECTED**

Bloc A: Countries that maintain non-interference or profit indirectly from the ongoing crisis. Examples include Russia, Sudan, China, Venezuela, Mexico, etc. This bloc’s resolution should support sovereignty policies and have minimal foreign interference, while being conservative on capacity building and diplomacy.

Bloc B: Countries that directly oppose and combat TOCs. Some countries that belong in this alliance are countries-members of the European Union (EU), as well as, The United States of America, The United Kingdom and members of the Gulf. This bloc’s resolution should push for capacity building, border-control, maritime security, offer funding and urge international cooperation.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

| **Date** | **Description of event** |
| --- | --- |
| 16 December 1962 | The Somali Penal Code (pre-1991).[[62]](#footnote-61) |
| 23 January 1992 | Resolution 733 (1992) adopted by the Security Council |
| 18 May 1991 | The Somaliland declaration of independence.[[63]](#footnote-62) |
| 15 November 2000 | Foreign Minister Ambassador Ahmed Moallim Fiqi officially signed Somalia’s accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocol. [[64]](#footnote-63) |
| 2009 | International Organization for Migration initiatives appeal IC/2009/10 |
| 18 November 2017 | The Parliament of Puntland State of Somalia ratified a New Human Trafficking Legislative Framework.[[65]](#footnote-64) |
| 6 March 2013 | Resolution 2093 (2013) Adopted by the Security Council at its 6929th meeting. |

**RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS**

**Resolution 2093**

This resolution was adopted by the Security Council on the 6th of March 2013. It is a guide for rebuilding Somalia’s security infrastructure while controlling the risks posed by non-state actors, including terrorist groups and militias, that resemble gang networks in their structure and operations. It focuses on solving security problems in the Somalian Gulf. Specifically, it supports the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and takes all the measures needed to stabilize the country and its military operations. The Resolution targets Al- Shabaab and other armed groups and gangs and labels them as “terrorists threats to Somalia, the region and the International community”. It, also, calls for action plans to terminate the recruitment and use of children as soldiers in armed groups, gangs and the military. Lastly, the resolution tasks the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) with tracking, if weapons are diverted to militias or criminal networks.[[66]](#footnote-65)

# Resolution 733 (1992)

This resolution, adopted by the Security Council states that piracy in the Somalian Gulf “constitutes a threat to international peace and security”, while it also requests international cooperation, recognising that transnational gangs are not confined by borders. It addresses vessel hijackings and maritime insecurity in the area that enable trafficking routes and urges States to provide practical support to Somalia, for instance weapons, drones, communication systems, radars and patrol boats, to strengthen its maritime security. Lastly, it targets piracy and armed robbery on the coast of Somalia, which are facilitated by transnational gangs and criminal networks.[[67]](#footnote-66)

**The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

It was adopted by The General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, is the main international tool that directly fights against transnational organized crime.

The Convention is further expanded by three Protocols, which focus on specific areas and objectifications of organized crime:

**The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;**

It defines trafficking in persons. The intention behind this definition is to facilitate merging in national approaches, aiming to the establishment of domestic criminal offences that would support efficient international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases.

**The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;**

It deals with the growing problem of organized criminal gangs that smuggle migrants. A major achievement of the Protocol was that it provided a definition of smuggling of migrants. The Protocol aims at preventing and mitigating the smuggling of migrants and promotes cooperation among States parties.

**The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.**

The objective of the Protocol, which is the first legally binding instrument on small arms that has been adopted at an international level, is to promote, facilitate and strengthen cooperation among States Parties in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. [[68]](#footnote-67)

**PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

# ATMIS Police strengthen Public Safety in Dhobley through joint Police and Community training

The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has enhanced public safety in Dhobley, Somalia, through a fierce training programme for police officers and community leaders, aiming to prevent and mitigate crime, report and detect transnational gangs to improve national security. This programme aimed in countering human trafficking and arms smuggling. The initiative which focused on critical public safety skills including station management, community policing, human trafficking and crime prevention. This attempt was partially successful since it enhances capacity building, but it was small-scaled, thus unable to make systemic changes and required follow-up actions and more resources.

**UN Security Council Arms Embargo**

The embargo on Somalia was first imposed in 1992 to terminate the flow of weapons to feuding warlords, which plunged the Horn of Africa country into civil war. In 2006, Al-Shabaab initiated a brutal insurgency against a succession of fragile central governments to establish its own rule based on a strict interpretation of Islamic Sharia law, while conducting strikes in Kenya. At the same time as lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to the government, the Security Council adopted a second British-drafted resolution reimposing a total arms ban on Al-Shabaab which still controls large swathes of the country and forces taxes on local people. Despite the arms embargo put in place by the UN Security Council, the illicit flow of arms from Yemen to Somalia has almost doubled owing to escalating international competition in the region and Iran’s attempt to gain a foothold in.[[69]](#footnote-68)The embargo wasn't very successful, because its enforcement in maritime was weak but it strengthened monitoring by UN panels of experts.

**The Somali Penal Code (pre-1991)**

The Somali Penal Code is the first time Somalia criminalized labor trafficking and some forms of sex trafficking. The mentioned articles exist until now in the current Somali penal code, since it has yet to be modernized, but it has only slightly been updated. The updated version of The Code criminalized slavery as well as transfering, disposing or taking possession of a person, but did not directly criminalize transnational gangs, arms smugglers and terrorist groups.[[70]](#footnote-69) Gangs take advantage of law-loopholes and conduct human trafficking, maritime hijacks and arms proliferation. The penal Code failed to adhere to today's needs and lacked capacity to be applied. It was not applied in practice, only legitimately.

**The Parliament of Puntland State of Somalia’s ratifies a new Human Trafficking Legislative Framework**

Following three years of consultations between IOM, on 18 November 2017, the UN Migration Agency, the Puntland Counter Trafficking Board (PCTB) and other stakeholders. The consultations were supported under a European Union (EU) funded project. It provides a new legal framework, comprising the penal and criminal procedure codes along with a new human trafficking framework that provides coherent and consistent internationally recognized laws for prosecutors to use for court hearings and verdicts for cases regarding trafficking.[[71]](#footnote-70) Putland had very limited research resources and the framework was unevenly applied, making it a semi-successful attempt.

**IOM’s first Trafficking programme in Somalia (2009)**

In 2009, IOM initiated the first programme to counter trafficking in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia, which generated much interest and support from regional authorities and civil society. IOM implements awareness raising activities, which have accompanied the formation of counter trafficking task forces within regional authorities.[[72]](#footnote-71) It aimed in combating human trafficking in East Africa and making efforts for harmonized CT legislation, capacity building in law enforcement and regional cooperation. It was only successful on the humanitarian aspect but it failed to make security changes and enforce law, since it lacked resources and political support.

**POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

**Strengthening intergovernmental cooperation**

When governments exchange information with each other, they are able to collect information on gangs that threaten nearby regions more easily and efficiently. This information is important, to prepare for possible future attacks on other countries or track routes used by gangs for human trafficking, arms and weapons illegal trade and drug commerce.

**Enhancing National security and defense in the Somalian Gulf region.**

The region is in need of modernizing armed forces, the military and its weapons, to remain safe and be able to resist the violent acts of gangs and TOC in general. Many of these countries are unable to invest in this sector, lacking resources. The region needs not only defense measures, however, but it is also vital to invest in its border control, strengthening the government, regional defence and police services. Our committee can recommend that UNODC and The African Union provide military equipment and resources.

**Encouraging the Update-Modernization of the Somalian Penalty code to adhere to today's requirements.**

As mentioned previously in the guide, the Somali penalty code is outdated and does not adhere to today’s needs, thus security is in danger in the region. The Somalian Government currently suffers from corrupt officials in high positions, Al-Shabaad and other gangs acts of violence and influence on the public, thus it shows inability to focus on the modernization of its Penalty Code. The UN could possibly provide support by recommending reforms or provide funding to help the FGS in this process. The UN needs to support capacity-building in Somalia, since it's the most common starting point for trafficking in the Gulf and the reason behind gang affiliations with the government.

**Investing in Border-Maritime security**

The Somalian Gulf is a passage of international commerce and without the necessary attention it can easily become a passage for gangs to transfer arms, drugs and humans. To prevent that there is a need for capacity building and investing in technology. Those investments could be resource-sharing, technology-transferring, marine monitoring systems and military training that would potentially facilitate tracking trade and trafficking routes to strengthen security in the region. Lastly, the creation of maritime checkpoints in the region, would assist the inspection for suspicious vessels and actions.

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