Delegation from
The Russian Federation

Position paper for the First Committee of the General Assembly
The issues brought before the First Committee concerning Disarmament and International Security are the following: Regulation of the military use of drones; Reducing of the trade of small arms and light weapons (SALWs); Preventing of the use of child soldiers. The delegation of the Russian Federation, entirely aware of the significance of these issues to international security, wishes for a fruitful and prosperous debate and thereby seeks to reach consensus on the resolutions with other Member States.

I. Regulation of the military use of drones
The Russian Federation acknowledges the ethical, legal, and humanitarian concerns raised by the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (hereinafter UAVs) in modern warfare and has grown increasingly aware of the importance of regulations to minimise the risks caused by recent use of UAVs. The increased use of drones in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia has made debates necessary to clarify the restrictions on acceptable use for UAV's and also to ensure that the rights of civilian casualties of drone attacks are to be upheld by all Member States. Furthermore, the Russian Federation is strongly in favour of the documentation of causalities of such drone attacks and is apprehended by the increase in the reliance on autonomous weapon systems, as can be seen by the growing number of military exercises involved in the use of UAVs. The Russian Federation has been concerned for some time about how some Member States, in particular, the United States of America, have managed to integrate and operate drones in their own armed forces. The esteemed President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, strongly criticizes the unethical use of drones by some Member States and as such, the Russian Federation is more than willing to improve the situation.

The Russian Federation is proud to say that its public discussions about the use of UAVs and the various issues it raises, including legal and humanitarian issues, are non-existent as the Russian armed forces do not use autonomous weapon systems to kill civilians. The Russian Federation has, in fact, introduced laws for the use of UAVs. Such laws include the registration of drones with a maximum take-off weight that is equivalent to or above 250 grams. There are also specific requirements on the security of drone flights. Individuals who possess drones must also employ a crew and a commander responsible for flight safety and thereby must write a flight plan that is approved. The Russian Federation approves the usage of drones as a solution to only the missions under the sphere of security and defence. Furthermore, unlike some Member States such as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the Russian Federation has backed and voted in favour of the Resolution (A/HRC/25/L.32) adopted by the Human Rights Council that called upon Member States to ensure the transparency in their documentation on the use of autonomous weapon systems and to conduct impartial investigations of violations of international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, by the use of armed drones.
The Russian Federation aims to reduce the room for manoeuvre of Member States or non-state actors for the excessive use of armed drones by constraining their use of airspace, but highlights that the use of UAVs for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance purposes should not be included in the limitations of airspace as they do not fatally harm citizens. Consequently, the Russian Federation is more than happy to issue a stringent set of laws or policies that may limit, but not completely outlaw, the usages of autonomous weapon systems in domestic territories. Furthermore, the Russian Federation is interested in the development of drones that are designed to protect not only stationary point such as military bases, airstrips and warehouses, but also forces on the battlefield and believes that those drones are more effective in the long run. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation fully supports the development of precision-guided weapons that require the clear fixing of military targets using a camera or laser guidance system to limit the civilian casualties.

II. Reducing the trade of small arms and light weapons (SALWs)

The Russian Federation recognises the violence and destruction that comes with the increased use of small arms and light weapons and is completely devoted to the improvement of the system for monitoring the ultimate use of small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, the Russian Federation takes the recommendations of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects into account as much as possible during debates of issues concerning the problem of SALWs and is employing successful means to prevent the illicit proliferation of such weapons. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation advises all Member States to be more aware of the economic profit and strong diplomatic ties that come with the legal trade of small arms, putting emphasis on legal. The Russian Federation further advises Member States to acknowledge that some nations do not have the possibility to arm themselves, meaning that they require the aid of another country through the purchasing of weaponry. As such there should be a clear distinction between nations in need of small arms as a method of protection and those who use it illicitly. However, the Russian Federation is entirely aware of the multifaceted issue regarding the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and is complete in favour of combating the illicit production, transmission and trading of small arms and light weapons.

Small arms and light weapons are subjected to border and customs control while in transport in the Russian Federation. Any and all forms of activity regarding small arms and light weapons are also subjected to licensing. Additionally, the Russian Federation prohibited all use of small arms that are not permitted explicitly under legislative acts and as such the transit of small arms and light weapons are governed and regulated constantly. Depending on the type of violation and the laws of trade in SALWs, Russian legislation will deliver an administrative or criminal charge to the offender. The Russian Federation collaborates closely with Member States that are part of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to devise successful methods to reduce and remove the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Furthermore, the Russian Federation cooperates closely with the
United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes imposed by the United Nations Security Council. Following the commitments and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, the Russian Federation delivers legal small arms and light weapons to foreign States strictly obeying our nation’s international obligations.

The Russian Federation strongly believes that there should be regulations for the use of small arms rather than the trade of small arms as the problem at hand comes from the use. Therefore, the Russian Federation calls on Member States to agree on selling small arms and light weapons to only certified dealers of importing countries and there should also be an imperative amendment on the unacceptability of illicitly trading small arms and light weapons to non-state actors.

**III. Preventing the use of child soldiers**

The conditions of children in armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa remains gloomy despite actions taken at both national and international levels. Children continue to be one of the most defenceless groups in the context of armed conflict situations. The Russian Federation is despondently aware of the use of child soldiers and is frightened by the severity of this issue, as seen by the increased number of recruitment of children as soldiers or suicide bombers by non-state actors such as ISIL and Boko Haram. Therefore, the Russian Federation is completely in favour of the prevention of children as soldiers. Furthermore, the Russian Federation expresses support for Member State’s efforts to prevent the recruitment of children and as such the Russian Federation further believes that the international community should support efforts on preventions of the use of child soldiers and that every government has a role to play in addressing the prevalence of armed groups and their recruitments of children.

Russian Federation strongly condemns the use of child soldiers by non-states actors and believes that the perpetrators should be brought to justice. Tragic situations of children in Syria and Yemen emphasises the necessity of reaching a political solution that would halt the use of child soldiers. In some areas in Ukraine, children continue to be burdened by the actions of the government forces and as such, the Russian Federation will continue to provide relief, assistance and rehabilitation to those children. This is because the Russian Federation is fearful for the traumatizing of children of war and believes that there should be a rehabilitation of children of war where they are reintegrated into a society of peace. The Russian Federation greatly emphasise that the key role in protecting children lies with national governments and support should aim at complementing their efforts of preventing the use of child soldiers. The Russian Federation is delighted that the Children, Not Soldiers campaign had produced concrete action. The Russian Federation urges all member states to endorse the Paris Commitments, like it has done, to protect children from unlawful recruitment. Moreover, the Russian Federation urges the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor Member States known for child soldiers and urges other member states to immediately address such problems that had led to children’s suffering.
The Russian Federation advises all Member States to exert pressure on violators and believes that the debates should focus on finding the most effective ways to address such violations. Furthermore, the Russian Federation believes that when settling conflicts and implementing reconstruction plans relating to armed conflicts, children’ issues should be kept in mind. Alternatively, the Russian Federation suggests rehabilitation of child soldiers in order to prevent re-recruitment of the children is vital to the resolution of this issue. The Russian Federation also believes that there should be a global system used to identify those who continue to use child soldiers. Ultimately, the Russian Federation hopes for a resolution that would help intensify exposure to this issue as well as effective methods of actions.