**Country: Indonesia**  
Committee: First Committee of the General Assembly  
Delegate: Ben Nelson, William Jackson, Wichita State University

The First Committee of the General Assembly has historically confronted vital issues of human society. The 58th meeting of the General Assembly will be no different than those in the past, with the First Committee striving to advance the causes of conventional disarmament, and the demobilization and reintegration of post-conflict combatants. Both issues are of crucial importance to the interests of Indonesia.

Indonesia supports the General Assembly’s recognition of “the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,” and believes that the future development of war-torn countries will be greatly aided by regional disarmament and demobilization of former soldiers.

The Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs places great emphasis on regional policies to address regional problems. This is evident in Indonesia’s emphasis on local partnerships as the cornerstone of its international policies. Because of the effectiveness of regional and sub-regional measures, Indonesia organizes its foreign policy around concentric circles—the most important of which is comprised of its nearest neighbors. The issues of conventional arms disarmament and the demobilization and reintegration of post-conflict combatants can effectively be addressed at the regional level.

**I. Conventional Arms Control at the Regional and Sub-regional Levels**

Difficult problems are presented by the proliferation of conventional arms. According to the 1997 Report on Small Arms published by the Department of Disarmament Affairs, conventional arms have been the primary weapons used in numerous conflicts, especially those in which irregular combatants fight. The abundant availability of conventional weapons has resulted in disastrous destabilization in many of the world’s poorest war-torn states. This destabilization has stunted development around the world, and an effective policy of conventional arms control will address this situation.

The issue of conventional arms control was addressed in the General Assembly’s Resolution 57/77, which concluded “that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and sub-regional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among states located in the same region.” Critical to successful regional disarmament is a high degree of mutual good-faith and confidence between regional actors. Included in this idea of mutual cooperation in disarmament is the free-flow of information and increased transparency between countries.

Indonesia’s “independent and active foreign policy” perspective strongly supports a regional approach to conventional arms control. As an influential member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Indonesia has sought a comprehensive and non-discriminatory policy on conventional arms control. Specifically, Indonesia’s long land and sea borders make the country an easy transit point for conventional arms trafficking. Indonesia cannot stop this trafficking on
its own; its regional neighbors must help stem the tide, and cooperation between regional states is the best way to bolster conventional arms control. National legislation must effectively control the production, export, import, and transfer of conventional arms. Indonesia views the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (RCPD) as the ideal body for coordinating regional disarmament. Indonesia seeks to codify a coordination of the national legislative measures of the Asian RCPD countries that are aimed at limiting the availability of conventional weapons. With fewer weapons available in the Asian sphere, Indonesia will be more capable of combating the illegal arms trafficking along its vast ocean borders.

II. Demobilization and Reintegration of Combatants in a Post-Conflict Period

The United Nations Security Council has, in the past few years, voiced its concern over the issue of demobilizing and reintegrating post-conflict combatants. Alarmingly, instability around the world continues even after the warring parties have reached peace agreements. The widespread availability of conventional arms has enabled violence to continue, despite formal peace agreements. The United Nations Security Council views demobilization and reintegration as steps in a broader process of peace building and reconstruction. Indonesia views conventional arms disarmament as a critical component of this larger issue.

As the process of demobilization and reintegration begins, the first step is to disarm. An incentive program, supported by the international community, would enable armed citizens to turn over their weapons in exchange for income-generating training and equipment. This concept was the essence of the Gramsh Pilot Project, which was successfully implemented in parts of Albania in 1998 and 1999 in response to the very high numbers of small arms in the country. This program was a pilot project and has yet to become a permanent fixture of the demobilization and reintegration process, and Indonesia seeks to make this a permanent component of demobilization. A UN program similar to this will serve to disarm and demobilize, plus it will aid in the prevention of future conflicts by beginning development. Indonesia views lasting peace as a result not only of disarming but also of prevention, and this program will fulfill both international ideals.
The issues of the General Assembly Second Committee are of vital interest to Indonesia. The Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement by the WTO sets the appropriate framework for identifying and responding to subsidies. However, it does not adequately address the improper use of subsidies by developed countries.

As a developing country, Indonesia is concerned about how the European countries and the United States use their subsidies to protect their agricultural products. Indonesia welcomes a subsidy policy where the developing countries are allowed fair access to the markets that developed countries are established. Market access is critical for developing countries. Without new market access, a developing country cannot fully support itself. With nearly 40 million unemployed workers, it is essential to Indonesia’s future that developed countries allow developing countries fair access to foreign markets. It is also necessary that developing countries be assisted to develop the capacity to produce goods that meet market requirements within Indonesia.

Furthermore, developing countries cannot sustain viable economic growth without being allowed to use appropriate measures to counter the influx of goods from a developed country. Indonesia has had to subsidize certain industries so that it can reach a viable economic growth. Currently, Indonesia has reinstalled fuel and electrical subsidies to ease the plight of its population.

To further address the economic problems facing developing countries, Indonesia has encouraged the South-South cooperation that has been fostered within recent years. Indonesia has been at the forefront of regional cooperation, as highlighted by its South-South cooperation. In July of 2003, the Government of Indonesia hosted the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations Conference (AASROC) in Bandung. AASROC focused on creating a partnership to overcome development problems and promote peace, prosperity and progress within the two regions. By developing increased cooperation through regional and international partners, a viable framework can be established to combat the problem of sustainable growth in developing countries.

Indonesia welcomes resolutions such as 57/270 B, which emphasizes the need for further review over the implementation of policies set forth by the UN, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO. Indonesia views the reform of surveillances as the strongest method to implement successful policies. Strengthening the coherence between these international organizations will help reduce poverty and increase sustainable growth. The General Assembly Second Committee plays a critical role in advancing coherence within the global economic institutions. Fundamental changes within the world system must be addressed, however, before sustainable growth can be achieved.

Indonesia urges the World Bank and the IMF to redouble their focus on the issue of representation, with a goal of attaining fair representation at the board level. The board will not become responsive to the needs and aspirations of the developing world if it is not reformed. These institutions must reconsider their debt policies toward developing countries. There can be no significant progress towards sustainability so long as the debts of the developing countries
remain a crippling factor. We must not allow indebtedness to prevent an improvement in human resources and infrastructure.

Indonesia views existing debt rescheduling mechanisms as a half-tiered approach. The sole focus on problems of liquidity prevents the mechanisms from addressing the very damaging problem of a durable solution to external debt. Through increased transfer of knowledge and the provision of technical and financial assistance, sound debt management can be achieved by developing nations.