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Statement of the DMUN Foundation to the 2025 United Nations Firearms Protocol Constructive Dialogue CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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**Delivered by Ms. Alexa Dominique Pascual
On behalf of the DMUN Foundation**

Excellencies, distinguished participants, dear colleagues,

My name is Alexa Dominique Pasucal. I am from the United States, and I am the representative of the DMUN Foundation, a youth-led international non-governmental organization advocating for young people inside the multilateral sector.

We would like to highlight the critical need and importance of young people and youth organizations in regards to the implementation of the UN Firearms protocol, in particular to the context of gender-based armed violence and young people as victims of firearm misuse.

Around the world, firearms are not only tools of warfare, but weapons of fear and control, particularly against women, youth, children, and other historically marginalized groups. The illicit flow of firearms across many countries increases accessibility for bad actors to access firearms, exacerbating gender-based and youth violence.



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The sheer accessibility of these weapons multiply the lethality of domestic abuse and facilitate coercion, intimidation, and sexual violence. Such lethality of firearms misuse is even greater for young people who do not have the requisite abilities to properly defend themselves or receive proper assistance from governmental and non-governmental institutions due to fear of reprisals from said bad actors.

To fully accomplish the objectives of the Protocol, we believe that the participation of stakeholders such as young people is critical. We believe that spaces like these, where civil society provides input should not only be limited to individual civil society organizations, but be expanded to facilitate the participation of the 21 recognized Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOS) constituencies, as many young people and other marginalized stakeholders do not have the privilege to represent themselves through individual civil society organizations.

As I conclude my statement, let me reiterate that intergenerational collaboration and stakeholder participation are critical and fundamental tenets that allow the mandate of the Protocol to thrive, and allow for the continued implementation



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and adjustments to the Protocol across several generations for years to come.

Excellencies, let us transform the Protocol to be not only a legal instrument but a living one. We need a Firearms Protocol that not only simply restricts the spread of weapons, but one that protects the fundamental dignity, safety, and future of every person it was meant to serve.

I thank you.