International Relations · GS - II

Discuss the challenges of achieving international consensus on conventional arms control. Why might countries favour global disarmament frameworks over region-specific arrangements?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conventional arms control; national security; regional security dilemmas; strategic asymmetry; UN disarmament mechanisms; global frameworks; verification; mutual trust; sovereign equality; multilateral diplomacy

Model Answer

Introduction

Conventional arms control seeks to regulate or limit weapons such as tanks, artillery, firearms and combat aircraft. However, differences in security perceptions and strategic interests often complicate international negotiations.

Challenges in Achieving Consensus

Countries may disagree over the scope of restrictions, verification mechanisms and the distribution of security responsibilities. Region-specific arrangements can be viewed differently by states depending on their threat perceptions and military capabilities. If restrictions affect countries unequally or exclude relevant security concerns, participation and compliance may become difficult.

Importance of Global Frameworks

Global frameworks can provide broader participation, common standards and more inclusive discussions on disarmament. They may help address security concerns that extend beyond geographical boundaries. Multilateral negotiations under the United Nations can also facilitate dialogue and build confidence among states.

Way Forward

Arms-control initiatives should promote transparency, credible verification, reciprocal commitments and equal consideration of legitimate security concerns. Regional arrangements can complement global mechanisms when they are inclusive and consistent with wider international commitments.

Conclusion

Effective conventional arms control requires balancing national security with collective peace. Sustainable progress depends on mutual trust, verifiable commitments and cooperation through inclusive multilateral institutions.

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