

Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition

Second Substantive Session

15-19 August 2022

Geneva, Switzerland

Mr Chair,

On behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, we are pleased to be here with you today.

Control Arms works globally to stop irresponsible arms transfers that fuel conflict and armed violence. We do so by supporting the universalization and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the adoption of the highest common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition.

There is more to be done to strengthen standards to regulate and track ammunition and to apply them with more consistency to lower the risk of diversion and misuse. Unchecked proliferation of ammunition prolongs the life cycle of weapons and fuels conflict, armed violence and insecurity around the world. Over the past four decades, unsafe storage of ammunition has caused over 600 accidental explosions, resulting in over 30,800 casualties.

Ensuring safe and secure ammunition management is therefore a human security priority.

We welcome the OEWG's recognition of the value civil society brings to the conversation on ammunition management. Civil society addresses this priority issue by monitoring the diversion of weapons and ammunition and researching new diversion prevention and mitigation measures. It often plays a role in raising the alarm when diversion occurs. For example, in 2021 the Italian Peace and Disarmament Network, in partnership with other Italian CSOs, played a key role in publicising a seizure of Italian-made ammunition in Senegal, and then pressuring the Italian government to release relevant documents and update their systems in order to avoid similar incidents in future.

Control Arms supports the OEWG's focus on "through-life" ammunition management. Many existing international and regional frameworks focus primarily on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). In this group, there is an opportunity to address all aspects of ammunition management – production, pre-transfer, transfer, stockpile, recovery, use and disposal. We therefore encourage the OEWG to continue to embrace a through-life approach to ammunition management that includes, but is not limited to, PSSM.

The ATT process can provide guidance on how a 'through-life' approach can translate into an effective framework to address diversion. The ATT Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, for instance, developed a report on '[Possible Measures to Prevent and Address Diversion](#)' of arms and ammunition. The measures in this report span the life cycle of a transfer



from beginning to end – from diversion risk assessments, end-user documentation, transit and transshipment controls to post-delivery checks.

The ATT process also takes a holistic approach to gender and can be instructive on how to incorporate gender perspectives in ammunition management. ATT States Parties developed a [set of commitments](#) on gender and gender-based violence (GBV) in 2019, agreeing to work together to achieve gender-balanced representation in decision-making processes, address the gendered impact of armed violence, and support the implementation of GBV-related risk assessments. To complement this work, Control Arms will launch on Wednesday of next week its ATT Gender Action Plan to operationalize these commitments and highlight States' achievements relating to gender and GBV considerations.

Control Arms looks forward to engaging with this working group to continue to explore innovative and inclusive ways to address ammunition management.

Thank you.
