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Draft

A Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management

I. Preamble

1. We, the Member States of the United Nations,
2. *Expressing* grave concern over the risks posed by the diversion of conventional ammunition of all types, from small-calibre ammunition to the largest conventional ammunition systems, to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, their trafficking on illicit markets, their use in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, as well as their contribution to the intensity and duration of armed conflict, armed violence, including gender-based armed violence, around the world, and the threat that they pose to peace, security, stability, and sustainable development at the individual, national, subregional, regional and global levels.¹
3. *Also expressing* grave concern over the devastation caused by unplanned explosions of conventional ammunition at ammunition sites, which claim thousands of lives, disrupt communities' livelihoods, generate severe humanitarian, human rights, socio-economic, environmental and public health impacts, and destroy ammunition needed for legitimate national defence and security requirements.
4. *Recognizing* the work of the General Assembly in considering steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition, and in this

¹ Diversion can be defined as the shifting of weapons, ammunition or explosives from the legal market or owner to an illegal market or owner as a result of losses, theft, leakage or proliferation from a stockpile or other source (International Ammunition Technical Guidelines 01.40 "Glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations", paragraph 3.83).

regard, *welcoming* the recommendations contained in the reports of the Groups of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolutions 61/72² and 72/55,³ and *recalling* that these were foundations for the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition established pursuant to resolution 76/233.

5. *Recognizing* the voluntary use by States of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines to improve the safe, secure and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition.
6. *Also recognizing* that gaps exist to achieving a discernible reduction in the risks and impacts arising from the ineffective through-life management of conventional ammunition around the world, and to this end, *stressing* the importance of addressing the safety and security risks and impacts emanating from the ineffective through-life management of conventional ammunition at the global level in a comprehensive manner.
7. *Recognizing* the need for the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes related to through-life conventional ammunition management and *encouraging* mainstreaming a gender perspective into policy and practice to address the differential impacts of the safety and security aspects of conventional ammunition on women, men, girls and boys.
8. *Further recognizing* the contribution by civil society, academia, research institutions and industry in supporting efforts to inform and promote safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management, and *also recognizing* the contribution of these multi-stakeholder partnerships towards a better understanding of the challenges posed by conventional ammunition.
9. *Deciding*, in response, and bearing in mind the different needs, situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, to adopt a set of political commitments as a Global Framework, dedicated to promoting and supporting safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management, that neither prejudices the nature of, nor prejudices our national legal systems that address national ammunition ownership, possession and use, so as to contribute to reducing the dual risks arising from ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management, including unplanned ammunition explosions and the diversion and trafficking of ammunition to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.
10. *Further confirming* that this Global Framework addresses safety and security risks associated with conventional ammunition in a comprehensive manner by promoting the through-life management of all types of conventional ammunition, from small-calibre ammunition to the largest conventional ammunition systems, extending from the point of manufacture, through pre-transfer, transfer, stockpiling and recovery, to their eventual use or disposal, to ensure their safety and security, including during their transportation.

II. Our guiding principles

11. This Global Framework rests upon, and reaffirms Member States' respect for international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of

² See: A/63/182.

³ See: A/76/324.

international disputes, non-intervention in the internal matters of States and, on this basis, we:

12. *Reaffirm* the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.
13. *Also reaffirm* the right of each State to legally manufacture, acquire, stockpile, manage and transfer conventional ammunition, including for self-defence and security needs, as well as to participate in peace operations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
14. *Further reaffirm* the prerogative of each State to assess its conventional ammunition requirements in accordance with its legitimate defence and security needs and its national legislation, and that it is also for the individual State to decide on the structure, doctrine and equipment requirements of its military and security forces.
15. *Recognize* that responsibility for addressing the risks associated with ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management falls on States and *underline* the importance of all States assuming strong national ownership in the through-life management of conventional ammunition.
16. *Also recognize* the importance of international cooperation and assistance in pursuing and supporting safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management nationally, subregionally, regionally and globally.
17. *Stress* the need for international cooperation among all relevant stakeholders on conventional ammunition, acknowledging the support that relevant actors can provide, where feasible, to States in addressing the risks posed by ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management.
18. *Recognize* the urgent necessity for assistance, where requested, appropriate and feasible, including technology transfers, technical, material, financial, legal assistance, or expertise for capacity-building and knowledge management, to support and facilitate efforts at national, subregional, regional and global levels to assess and address the risks associated with ineffective through-life conventional ammunition management and, in this regard, *underscore* the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable approach.
19. *Also underline* that this Global Framework is without prejudice to obligations under relevant international, regional and subregional instruments to which States are a Party and to their other relevant political commitments.

III. Our cooperative framework

20. To strengthen and promote relevant existing initiatives, as well as to address existing gaps in through-life conventional ammunition management, we lay out the following political commitments as a new Global Framework, without prejudice to national legal systems that address national ammunition ownership, possession and use, which is to be part of a Comprehensive Framework⁴ to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The Global Framework comprises 15 objectives:

⁴ It is intended that this Global Framework will be one layer of a comprehensive framework to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, building upon and complementing existing frameworks.

**Objectives for safe, secure, and sustainable through-life
conventional ammunition management**

1. Apply, promote and enhance relevant international standards, guidelines and good practices on safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management.
2. Adopt needs-driven and sustainable approaches to international cooperation and assistance, tailored to national, subregional or regional contexts, and prioritising full recipient participation and ownership.
3. Recognize, and where appropriate support, existing and new regional and subregional mechanisms that address through-life conventional ammunition management.
4. Prioritise the sustainability of national authorities' capabilities in through-life conventional ammunition management.
5. Strive for the systematic and sustainable surveillance of relevant types of conventional ammunition in national stockpiles.
6. Consistently employ explosive limit licensing as a critical risk reduction factor in the management of conventional ammunition.
7. Establish adequate through-life systems for inventory management and record keeping of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control, including ammunition classification resulting from systematic ammunition surveillance.
8. Promote supply chain transparency to facilitate through-life diversion risk assessments when authorising conventional ammunition transfers.
9. Mitigate the risk of post-transfer conventional ammunition diversion, including through the use of end user certificates and functionally equivalent documents.
10. Deny unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, access to useable cached, abandoned and uncleared conventional ammunition and its energetic material.
11. Enhance the traceability of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control.
12. Enhance analysis of conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking and foster voluntary information-sharing on subregional, regional and international conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking.
13. Where consistent with national laws, enhance law enforcement, customs and border control data collection and analysis on diverted conventional ammunition.
14. Strengthen gender mainstreaming and the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in through-life conventional ammunition management.
15. Foster cooperation with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry to enhance through-life conventional ammunition management.

21. We recognize that there may be multiple paths to realising these objectives and hence flexibility is needed in the configuration of measures required to address them.
22. We commit to these objectives and to the specific common measures designed to realise them with the aim of enhancing through-life conventional ammunition management.
23. Recognising diverse national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities, we also list additional measures that could contribute to achieving the objective in specific national or regional contexts.
24. A rationale for each objective, which describes its relevance, is referenced in the Annex of this Global Framework.

Objective 1: Apply, promote and enhance relevant international standards, guidelines and good practices on safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Prioritise the use by relevant government institutions and national implementing bodies of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, or corresponding standards or guidelines, when undertaking actions to enhance through-life conventional ammunition management, as appropriate and consistent with national law.
 - (ii) Sustain ongoing reviews of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines led by the UN *SaferGuard* programme.
 - (iii) As a matter of priority, and to promote global accessibility, support the publication of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and related support resources, online and in multiple languages.
 - (iv) Develop operational guidelines related to security aspects of the through-life management of conventional ammunition, where they do not exist, by the UN *SaferGuard* programme, in the framework of the International Technical Ammunition Guidelines, taking into account and complementing relevant existing standards, guidelines and good practices, without duplicating them.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Continue to recognise that the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, or corresponding standards or guidelines, inform and support a wide range of existing bilateral, multilateral and multinational initiatives, projects and measures, which can serve as examples of good practices for future policy making and international cooperation and assistance projects.
 - (ii) Provide, within the scope of international cooperation and assistance, and where requested, appropriate and feasible, legal, regulatory and procedural assistance (including the provision of relevant model regulations) that are aligned with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, or corresponding standards or guidelines.
 - (iii) Integrate the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, or corresponding international and regional standards or guidelines, into national standards and regulations.

Objective 2: Adopt needs-driven and sustainable approaches to international cooperation and assistance, tailored to national, subregional or regional contexts, and prioritising full recipient participation and ownership

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Prioritise full and inclusive recipient participation and ownership in the development of through-life conventional ammunition management programmes and initiatives supported through, as applicable, international cooperation and assistance.
 - (ii) Consider, when needed, conducting voluntary assessments and analyses, coordinated nationally and under national ownership, to identify potential

needs in through-life conventional ammunition management that can be addressed through national programming or tailored subregional, regional and international cooperation and assistance.

- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Encourage cooperation on through-life conventional ammunition management at the regional and subregional levels on a voluntary basis, including situating international cooperation and assistance within existing or emerging regional and subregional conventional ammunition management initiatives, without duplicating them.
 - (ii) Encourage designing and implementing international cooperation and assistance programmes on through-life conventional ammunition management as part of relevant humanitarian, peacebuilding, security sector governance or sustainable development efforts of the requesting State, as appropriate and mutually agreed with that State.

Objective 3: Recognise, and where appropriate support, existing and new regional and subregional mechanisms that address through-life conventional ammunition management

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Encourage, and where appropriate support, strengthened cooperation on through-life conventional ammunition management at regional and subregional levels.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) In devising implementation measures for regional or subregional cooperation, consider establishing structured strategic processes, such as comprehensive road maps and/or action plans on through-life conventional ammunition management, with possible performance indicators, as a joint effort involving recipient States, donors and implementing organizations.
 - (ii) With specific reference to international cooperation and assistance, encourage recipient States, donors and implementing organizations to meet regularly to provide feedback and share information on assistance projects, lessons learned and good practices at regional and subregional levels, with the aim of identifying potential opportunities or gaps in the cooperation or assistance requested, and encouraging the mainstreaming of sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management into relevant existing programmes.
 - (iii) Encourage, where relevant, States participating in regional and subregional initiatives to share information on lessons learned and good practices at the global level, with the aim of identifying potential opportunities or gaps in cooperation, and encouraging the mainstreaming of sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management into relevant existing initiatives.
 - (iv) Consider strengthening regional and subregional mechanisms for international cooperation and assistance relevant to through-life conventional ammunition management, where they exist and as

appropriate, or consider establishing such mechanisms where they do not exist.

Objective 4: Prioritise the sustainability of national authorities' capabilities in through-life conventional ammunition management

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Prioritise developing, managing and sustaining adequate national processes, functional roles and capability enabling lines required for effective through-life conventional ammunition management, including in the design and development of international cooperation and assistance programmes, taking into consideration International Ammunition Technical Guidelines Module 01.35 on *Organizational capabilities*.
 - (ii) Explore the coherent integration of through-life conventional ammunition management measures into conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, security sector governance and reform, and sustainable development frameworks, where relevant, at the policy and programme levels.
 - (iii) Develop nationally driven, clear and coherent systems for the oversight of through-life conventional ammunition management, which adhere to good security sector governance principles of transparency and accountability.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) To assess organizational capabilities including associated processes (i.e. risk assessments), functional roles (i.e. stakeholder assessments) and capability enabling lines, when needed (for example, within the framework of voluntary assessments and analyses or in the design and development of international cooperation and assistance programmes).

Objective 5: Strive for the systematic and sustainable surveillance of relevant types of conventional ammunition in national stockpiles

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Prioritise the establishment, by States, of the necessary technical capabilities to perform systematic surveillance of relevant types of conventional ammunition in national stockpiles, as appropriate, including through the provision and receipt of international cooperation and assistance.
 - (ii) Employ suitable information management systems to record surveillance results and information on conventional ammunition in national stockpiles.
 - (iii) Explore the development, including in conjunction with industry, of lower-technology surveillance measures that are tailored for transitional use in low-capacity and conflict-affected environments.
 - (iv) Continue to develop guidance, methods and good practices on conventional ammunition surveillance, with the aim of facilitating its widespread use by States, as appropriate, including within the framework of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and with an emphasis on low-capacity and conflict-affected environments.

- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) In low-capacity or conflict-affected environments, consider integrating elements of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines Module 07.10 on *Surveillance and in-service proof* when undertaking voluntary assessments and analyses to identify potential needs in through-life conventional ammunition management.

Objective 6: Consistently employ explosive limit licensing as a critical risk reduction factor in the management of conventional ammunition

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Prioritise the use of explosive limit licensing, based on scientifically modelled calculations and explosive consequence analyses, to reduce safety risks posed by conventional ammunition stockpiles, including through the provision and receipt of international cooperation and assistance.
 - (ii) Pay due regard to the safeguarding of conventional ammunition storage sites, ensuring that civilian habitation and infrastructure is kept at a safe distance.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Promote the use of International Ammunition Technical Guidelines Modules IATG 02.20 *Separation and quantity distances*, 02.30 on *Licensing of explosives facilities* and 2.40 on *Safeguarding*.

Objective 7: Establish adequate through-life systems for inventory management and record keeping of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control, including ammunition classification resulting from systematic ammunition surveillance

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Strengthen national capacities to develop, where necessary, and maintain adequate inventory management and record keeping systems required for the through-life management of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control.
 - (ii) Promote the use of technological solutions for efficient inventory management and record keeping systems for the through-life management of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control.
 - (iii) Ensure, as appropriate, that the full inventory of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control has been identified, classified and registered in relevant inventory management and record keeping systems.
 - (iv) Encourage international cooperation and technology transfers in order to strengthen the capacities stated in point 7.1(a) in developing countries.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:

- (i) In low-capacity and conflict-affected environments, develop adequate and maintenance-light information management solutions to support effective national inventory management and record keeping systems for the through-life management of conventional ammunition, including within the framework of international cooperation and assistance programmes.
- (ii) For States in a position to do so, provide, within the scope of international cooperation and assistance, and where appropriate and upon request, legal, regulatory and procedural assistance in national inventory management and record keeping, which is aligned with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, or corresponding standards or guidelines.

Objective 8: Promote supply chain transparency to facilitate through-life diversion risk assessments when authorising conventional ammunition transfers

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Integrate through-life diversion risk assessment methodologies into national conventional ammunition transfer control systems, including within the scope of international cooperation and assistance, and promote the fullest feasible disclosure of parties to the onward transfer chain in transfer license applications, in particular the ultimate end user.
 - (ii) Encourage bilateral pre- and post-delivery cooperation between originating and recipient States, including *inter alia* recipient States alerting originating States to relevant cases of post-transfer diversion and performing post-delivery controls, where relevant.
 - (iii) Use, where deemed beneficial, feasible, and consistent with national law, existing mechanisms where they exist, or developing new arrangements where they do not, to share information on parties that have previously diverted conventional ammunition, including at international, regional and subregional levels.
 - (iv) Deny an export if there is an unacceptably high risk of diversion.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Foster, where feasible and consistent with national law, inter-agency information exchange at the national level to provide transfer licensing authorities access to relevant nationally compiled, or internationally, regionally and subregionally shared information on cases of diverted conventional ammunition and any parties responsible for diverting it.
 - (ii) Reduce, where feasible, the risks of conventional ammunition diversion to unauthorized recipients, unless this prevents legitimate conventional ammunition transfers by States, encourage relevant national transfer control authorities to consider, *inter alia*, the following suggested elements of a gender-sensitive, pre-transfer diversion risk assessment process:
 - a. Analyse the goods in relation to the declared end user (for the purposes of identifying fraudulent end user certification and equivalent documents).
 - b. Consider the end user's bona fides (i.e. is the end user who they claim to be?).

- c. Consider all parties involved in the transfer, including freight forwarders, brokers, consignees and other intermediaries.
 - d. Consider cases where the supply chain lacks transparency (parties do not produce sufficient documentation to enable adequate transfer risk assessment) or where parties to the transfer have a history of diverting conventional ammunition previously.
 - e. Maintain registers and databases of transfers, manufacturers, brokers, vessels and aircraft, as well as end users, shippers and freight forwarders that have a history of diversion or poor security measures.
 - f. Consider the risks of diversion associated with transit, trans-shipment and the choice of route. Analyse all relevant information from primary and open sources. Verify and authenticate relevant documentation.
 - g. Use delivery verification certificates.
- (iii) Explore, where deemed effective and feasible, and at the request of recipient States, voluntary arrangements between transfer originating and recipient States to conduct joint International Ammunition Technical Guidelines risk-reduction process level assessments in the recipient State, to identify potential options for conventional ammunition management enhancements and/or needs for international cooperation and assistance.

Objective 9: Mitigate the risk of post-transfer conventional ammunition diversion, including through the use of end user certificates or functionally equivalent documents

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
- (i) Consider, where feasible and consistent with national law, making mandatory under national law the routine use of end user certificates, or functionally equivalent documents, in which the end user is identified as precisely as feasible for all international transfers of conventional ammunition.
 - (ii) Routinely include, where feasible and consistent with national law, non-retransfer clauses in end user certificates, or functionally equivalent documents, which only allow end users to re-transfer conventional ammunition upon prior written approval of the originating State, or with clearly defined exceptions, in accordance with the terms of the export license.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
- (i) Consider, where appropriate and feasible and based on a risk assessment of a specific international transfer, either the use of the apostille certificate processes to authenticate end user certificates and associated transfer documentation; the certification or validation of transfer documentation by competent importing State authorities; or the provision of an import license issued by competent importing State authorities or other duly authorized parties.
 - (ii) Encourage, without discharging export licensing authorities of their legal duties, ammunition manufacturers and exporters to exercise due diligence, for example, in verifying the identities of end users and other parties to the supply chain, being vigilant as to the forgery or misuse of end user

documentation, and flagging cases of attempted illicit acquisition to their competent national authorities.

Objective 10: Deny unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, access to useable cached, abandoned and uncleared conventional ammunition and its energetic material

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Encourage clearance of unexploded ordnance and the safeguarding, safe storage, recovery or disposal of unguarded legacy stockpiles of conventional ammunition that is still operational, and which are not held or controlled by governments, as a means to deny access to conventional ammunition by unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.
 - (ii) Consider whether, in conformity with legitimate security needs, parts of national stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and if they are, whether they represent a safety or security risk, their preferred means of destruction, if appropriate, and whether international cooperation and assistance is needed to eliminate this risk.
 - (iii) Ensure national capacity to dispose of excess, obsolete and unserviceable conventional ammunition efficiently, using methods that minimise negative impacts on the human population, civilian infrastructure or the environment.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Prioritize, if presented with widespread stockpile security challenges, the physical security of conventional ammunition containing high quantities of explosive, whose acquisition may be attractive to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.
 - (ii) Consider, where deemed relevant and appropriate, supporting through international cooperation and assistance, national efforts to safeguard or clear useable cached, abandoned and uncleared conventional ammunition, which is not under national control and ownership, for the specific purpose of denying its acquisition by unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.

Objective 11: Enhance the traceability of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) When procuring conventional ammunition, and where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, States request appropriate markings on the smallest, commonly marked packaging unit of conventional ammunition to identify, inter alia: (a) the manufacturer; (b) the calibre or type; and (c) the lot number.
 - (ii) Consistent with national law, States procuring internationally transferred conventional ammunition keep relevant records.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs and priorities:

- (i) When procuring conventional ammunition that is manufactured specifically for States, and where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, States request the application of sub-lot numbers to progressively smaller units of ammunition packaging and, where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, to the item of conventional ammunition itself.
- (ii) When procuring conventional ammunition, and where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, States request that ammunition lots are not split among different national customers/end-users.
- (iii) When procuring conventional ammunition that is manufactured specifically for States, and where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, States that request application of sub-lot numbers to conventional ammunition packaging may request the inclusion of sub-lot numbers in relevant documentation and may record sub-lot numbers in their own relevant inventory records.
- (iv) States that have specific additional marking requirements for conventional ammunition should request these during the marking process.

Objective 12: Enhance analysis of conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking and foster voluntary information-sharing on subregional, regional and international conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Where jointly agreed, feasible and consistent with their national laws, States will cooperate with each other and, where appropriate, with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in tracing, investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings in relation to the diversion of conventional ammunition.
 - (ii) Where deemed beneficial, feasible and consistent with national and international law, use existing subregional, regional and international mechanisms where they exist, or foster new arrangements where they do not, to share information on methods of shipment, means of concealment and the routes customarily used by criminal organizations engaged in conventional ammunition diversion.
 - (iii) Where deemed beneficial, feasible and consistent with national and international law, use existing subregional, regional and international mechanisms where they exist, or foster new arrangements where they do not, to share information, voluntarily, on seized and recovered conventional ammunition or its packaging (including lot and/or batch and, where relevant, container information), with a view to enhancing cross-border law enforcement cooperation and promoting more effective conventional ammunition counter-diversion and counter-trafficking measures.
 - (iv) Prioritise investigations into the diversion of easily trafficked, technologically advanced conventional ammunition systems, such as missiles for man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and missiles for anti-tank guided weapon systems (ATGW).
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:

- (i) Consistent with States' national laws and practices, encourage closer cooperation and information exchange, as appropriate, among parties investigating conventional ammunition diversion, including national law enforcement agencies, customs and border control, export and import licensing, defence forces, and intelligence services; international law enforcement organizations; regional law enforcement organizations, relevant regional entities; and relevant United Nations entities.
- (ii) Consistent with national and international law, encourage closer cooperation and information exchange with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry.

Objective 13: Where consistent with national laws, enhance law enforcement, customs and border control data collection and analysis on diverted conventional ammunition

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Encourage, where consistent with national law, feasible and appropriate, national law enforcement, customs and border control authorities to collect data on seized and recovered conventional ammunition and, if relevant, review existing data collection directives, procedures, and processes.
 - (ii) Where consistent with national law, feasible and appropriate, take reasonable measures to identify the origin (manufacturer or, in cases of diversion, lawful end user) of seized and recovered conventional ammunition for further analysis.
 - (iii) Where consistent with national law, feasible and appropriate, investigate diversion through the analysis of marks applied to conventional ammunition or its packaging and by consulting corresponding transfer and inventory records.
 - (iv) Encourage, where consistent with national law, feasible and appropriate, the development, application and adoption of new technology-based enhancements for effective ammunition documentation, identification and tracing, to facilitate criminal investigations of conventional ammunition trafficking by law enforcement and customs and border control authorities.
 - (v) In contexts where diverted ammunition is associated with criminal violence, including gender-based violence, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, record information on victims, including disaggregated by age and sex, to allow for an assessment of the role of diverted in ammunition in different types of armed violence.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Address data collection and analysis of seized and recovered conventional ammunition or its packaging, where appropriate, within the framework of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.
 - (ii) Provide relevant peer-to-peer training and mentoring, where appropriate and upon request, to national law enforcement, customs and border control authorities on the collection and analysis of data on seized and recovered conventional ammunition or its packaging, including through the framework of international cooperation and assistance.

Objective 14: Strengthen gender mainstreaming and the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in through-life conventional ammunition management

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Further assess and consider a gender perspective and gender implications with respect to through-life conventional ammunition management to inform gender-sensitive conventional ammunition management policies and programming.
 - (ii) Promote the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and leadership of both women and men in ammunition management policy, practice and decision making, specifically in the development of organizational capabilities, including through international cooperation and assistance.
 - (iii) Increase understanding of the differentiated impact of unplanned explosions at ammunition sites, as well as the diversion of conventional ammunition, on women, men, girls and boys and their livelihoods.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Consider the growing body of research and guidance for gender mainstreaming through-life conventional ammunition management in supporting the development or review of national conventional ammunition management policies and practices, and in the design and implementation of relevant international cooperation and assistance programmes, as appropriate.
 - (ii) Exchange national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on mainstreaming a gender perspective into through-life conventional ammunition management.

Objective 15: Foster cooperation with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry to enhance through-life conventional ammunition management

- (a) In pursuit of this objective, we commit to the following common measures:
 - (i) Initiate consultations with industry and technology experts, including under United Nations auspices, to explore current and emerging solutions to enhance supply chain integrity in the field of through-life conventional ammunition management.
 - (ii) Foster dialogue and strengthen the exchange of information with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry on technological, policy and normative developments in through-life conventional ammunition management, including in relation to export controls.
- (b) Beyond the common measures above, the following additional measures could contribute to achieving this objective, depending on national or regional circumstances, specificities, needs or priorities:
 - (i) Consider sensitizing civil society, academia, research institutions and industry to develop systems that contribute to the more effective through-life management of conventional ammunition.
 - (ii) Consider involving conventional ammunition manufacturers and exporters in supporting government efforts in the implementation of the Global

Framework through training initiatives and research, including with the participation of civil society, academia and research institutions.

IV. International cooperation and assistance

25. Bearing in mind that the full and effective implementation of the objectives of this Global Framework will be promoted by international cooperation and assistance, States commit to cooperate and coordinate with each other in efforts to strengthen through-life conventional ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.
26. States will establish and strengthen cooperation and partnerships at all levels, consistent with their national laws, including with international, regional and subregional organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, academia, research institutions and the private sector.
27. States commit to designate a national point of contact relating to the implementation of this Global Framework. States are encouraged to provide technical support to the national point of contact on matters related to conventional ammunition safety and security, including stockpile management and the collection and analysis of data on conventional ammunition diversion.
28. Regional and subregional organizations are also encouraged to designate similar points of contact and to promote cooperation and coordination among them.
29. States that have identified needs pertaining to safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management may seek assistance, including technology transfers, technical, material, financial, legal assistance, and expertise for capacity-building and knowledge management, that may help address relevant aspects of through-life conventional ammunition management.
30. States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in a position to do so, and upon request, should consider providing, as appropriate, needs-based, tailored and sustainable assistance to requesting States, in order to support the implementation of this Global Framework. National ownership is considered a critical success factor for effective and sustainable assistance.
31. States may request, offer or receive assistance through, *inter alia*, the United Nations, notably the UN *SaferGuard* programme, international, regional or subregional organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations, or on a bilateral basis, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, or by contributing to trust funds within the United Nations system as well as other regional and subregional trust funds relevant to through-life conventional ammunition management. Regional and subregional organizations may also request and receive assistance from, and offer assistance to, one another through cross-regional cooperation, including through the United Nations as appropriate.
32. States request the Secretariat to establish under the UN *SaferGuard* programme an efficient and agile global mechanism for requesting, offering and receiving assistance in through-life conventional ammunition management, including modalities and processes.
33. States request the Secretariat to maintain, under the UN *SaferGuard* programme, the roster of experts validated according to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and to complement such roster, in line with the further development of these Guidelines, and invite regional and subregional organizations to establish, where needed, and to maintain regional and subregional rosters of experts, as appropriate.

34. States are encouraged to use the findings of voluntary assessments and analyses as referenced in measure 2.a.ii to inform areas of enhancement of through-life conventional ammunition management.
35. States will enhance the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management, which can be publicly disclosed, *inter alia* under the auspices of the United Nations, and encourage regional and subregional organizations to foster such exchanges at their levels respectively and across regions, as appropriate.

V. Follow-up and review

36. To promote the safe, secure, and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition, we will take the following steps for the effective implementation and follow up of the Global Framework:
37. Convene a Meeting of States no later than 2027, and subsequently every six years. Meetings of States will take stock of through-life conventional ammunition management practices and experiences, identify technological developments, and share lessons learned and progress made in the implementation of this Global Framework. Meetings of States will address gaps, challenges, and recommendations in through-life conventional ammunition management, including needs and measures taken in the field of international cooperation and assistance, with the participation of relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, academia, research institutions and industry.
38. Convene a governmental Technical Experts Meeting no later than 2025 to contribute to the development of processes and modalities for the effective implementation of the Global Framework.
39. Request the Secretariat, to develop a reporting template for national reports to be presented at the 2025 Technical Experts Meeting. This template should take in consideration existing templates and reporting modalities and the diverse circumstances, specificities, needs, and priorities of States.
40. Request States to submit their initial national reports in 2026, and relevant voluntary updates subsequently every six years, in advance of Meetings of States.
41. Convene governmental Technical Experts Meetings in 2029 and 2031, and subsequently as decided by the Meetings of States, with the participation of relevant international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, research institutions and industry. These governmental Technical Experts Meetings will address particular issues and themes relevant to conventional ammunition management practices under the Global Framework, including in the field of international cooperation and assistance, for consideration by the Meetings of States. States will consider the issues and themes of past and future Technical Expert Meetings at Meetings of States.
42. Invite States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, research institutions and industry to provide technical papers to the Secretariat on any thematic issues or new gaps, needs, or measures identified in the implementation of the Global Framework, in particular on those particular issues and themes addressed in Technical Experts Meetings.
43. Request the Secretariat, to collate and circulate initial national reports and relevant voluntary updates, and present to the Meetings of States data and information as provided by States.

44. Encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations to foster exchange on the implementation of this Global Framework at the regional and subregional level, as appropriate.
45. Request the Secretariat to continue serving as the custodian of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and to further develop and review the Guidelines, covering relevant safety and security aspects of through-life conventional ammunition management and taking into account and complementing existing standards, guidelines and good practices, without duplicating them.
46. Request the Secretariat to establish and maintain an online platform on subregional, regional and global initiatives to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management.

Annex: The rationales for objectives in the Global Framework

Objective 1: Apply, promote and enhance relevant international standards, guidelines and good practices on safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management

Rationale for the objective: Existing international standards, guidelines and good practices promote and enhance safe, secure and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management. Their increased use by national authorities is of paramount importance for future gains in addressing the safety and security risks associated with conventional ammunition. The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines are not alone in providing comprehensive guidance on safe and secure through-life conventional ammunition management (certain States and international organizations employ their own, corresponding standards and guidelines). Having been developed under the auspices of the United Nations, however, their scope and application is designed to be global, they are specifically intended to assist States with widely varying national capacities and they form part of a wider framework of global ammunition management enhancement activities under the UN *SaferGuard* programme and various bilateral, multilateral and multinational programmes.⁵ To have the greatest impact on the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition, however, more national authorities need to use the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and corresponding standards or guidelines. The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines also require continued refinement to reflect new challenges and newly identified solutions in the field of through-life conventional ammunition management, including the development of supporting guidance and tools that are tailored towards implementation in specific national and/or subregional and regional circumstances and promoting gender mainstreaming in through-life conventional ammunition management. Additionally, while the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines provide substantial guidance on stockpiled ammunition, there is a need to expand them to include specific guidance for ammunition security risks and responses to them throughout its supply chain, including, *inter alia*: the security of manufacturing facilities *inter alia*; the security of manufacturing facilities; traceability; industry and exporter due diligence; supply chain management; export licensing and transfer risk assessment; the verification of transfer documentation; post-delivery cooperation; the collection and analysis of data on seized or recovered ammunition; international cooperation and information sharing on ammunition diversion.

Objective 2: Adopt needs-driven and sustainable approaches to international cooperation and assistance, tailored to national, subregional or regional contexts, and prioritising full recipient participation and ownership

Rationale for the objective: Sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management rests on States developing and maintaining their own national capabilities. However, international cooperation and assistance is crucial in the process of some States developing their own capacities and attaining overall success in sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management. When there is a divergence between national needs and resources and the support provided through international cooperation and assistance, gains made in promoting safe and secure through-life conventional ammunition management can be short-lived. Moreover,

⁵ Including the UN *SaferGuard* implementation support toolkit for the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and support documents for the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines available at: <https://unsafeguard.org/>

duplications of international cooperation and assistance initiatives prevent the efficient allocation of valuable and scarce resources to recipients. This can be avoided through tailoring assistance to the different national and/or subregional/regional circumstances; broadening the number of national stakeholders involved in through-life conventional ammunition management decision making; enhancing dialogue and feedback between providers and recipients; recognising that national capabilities required for effective conventional ammunition management often derive from, and need to be strengthened across, government and not just within the defence and security sectors in a whole-of-government approach; and encouraging civil society, regional and subregional participation (acknowledging that there may be similarities in the circumstances of States within the same regions and sub-regions and the benefit of ‘south-south’ and triangular cooperation).

Objective 3: Recognise, and where appropriate support, existing and new regional and subregional mechanisms that address through-life conventional ammunition management

Rationale for the objective: States may share greater commonalities in terms of conventional ammunition challenges and solutions at regional and subregional levels than they do globally. In some regions there are also established regional or subregional initiatives that are focused on, or have direct relevance for, through-life conventional ammunition management. Given strong unity of purpose and close cooperation in some regions and sub-regions, actions at these levels would serve to catalyse the realisation of global ambitions for actions on through-life conventional ammunition management.

Objective 4: Prioritise the sustainability of national authorities’ capabilities in through-life conventional ammunition management

Rationale for the objective: Safe, secure and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition is a multi-layered process, requiring a whole array of capabilities, which allow expertise to be applied and/or institutionalised. These capabilities, which enable an organization (e.g. military and security forces) to sustain its expertise, are also known as organizational capabilities. Organizational capabilities are not solely related to ammunition management, but to the management of any asset. They include processes (i.e. through-life management), functional roles (i.e. stakeholders at all levels) as well as capability enabling lines. The term ‘capability enabling lines’ refers to the ability across an organization (e.g. Ministry of Defence) to manage and allocate resources to produce a desired capability. These capability enabling lines include doctrine and concepts, organization, training, material, personnel, finances, infrastructure, and safety and security. Through-life conventional ammunition management should also be subject to principles of good governance, adopt transparent and accountable decision making and oversight mechanisms, and be considered, where applicable, as part of relevant, wider peace, security and development frameworks. Unless these organizational capabilities are appropriately understood, defined and resourced, the prospects for States sustaining gains made in conventional ammunition management, whether nationally driven or achieved through international cooperation and assistance, are very much reduced.

Objective 5: Strive for the systematic and sustainable surveillance of relevant types of conventional ammunition in national stockpiles

Rationale for the objective: Surveillance of ammunition is the thorough gathering and assessment of all data on a unit of conventional ammunition to determine its condition throughout its life. From the perspective of ammunition safety, it is most commonly required for larger units of conventional ammunition (i.e. not small-calibre

ammunition), particularly for monitoring the stability of energetic material—notably propellants. For these calibres, in particular, surveillance is a fundamental and irreplaceable component of safe ammunition management. It includes physical inspection, proof, chemical analysis of propellants and reporting on the use of ammunition (including its accuracy, safety, any accidents or incidents, its age, components and the conditions and climates in which it has been used or stored). It also requires robust oversight mechanisms to ensure that conventional ammunition management practices are conducted transparently and with accountability to relevant governance structures. Of all through-life conventional ammunition management activities, systematic ammunition surveillance requires the greatest technical capability (including the training of expert staff in physical inspection and chemical analysis of propellants and the development of testing facilities). Many States lack the necessary ammunition surveillance capability, which means that despite other advances that they might make in safe ammunition management, their stockpiles remain fundamentally at risk of ‘chemical shelf life’ instability and the consequent threat of unplanned ammunition explosions. As such, whether nationally, or in the context of international cooperation and assistance programmes, developing systematic ammunition surveillance capability is a major undertaking. However, its role is so critical to safe through-life conventional ammunition management that the sustainable capacity-building and training of personnel, the provision of appropriate testing facilities, and the continued development of guidance should be considered international priorities.

Objective 6: Consistently employ explosive limit licensing as a critical risk reduction factor in the management of conventional ammunition

Rationale for the objective: One of the most efficient means of containing the risk of an unplanned ammunition explosion is to limit quantities of ammunition stored in the same area by defining maximum quantities of explosives for each ammunition site, minimum quantity and separation distances and compatibility groups (typically termed ‘licensing of explosives facilities’ and ‘separation and quantity distances’). This ensures that if there is an explosion, 1) there is sufficient distance between fixed quantities of ammunition to prevent all ammunition stored on site from exploding, and 2) people, protected areas and critical infrastructure remain at tolerably safe distances. This is achieved by the relevant institution assigning ‘explosive limit licenses’ for each explosive storehouse or facility and ‘safeguarding’ to prevent civilian encroachment into safety distances around ammunition storage sites. While explosive limit licensing is an essential component of safe, long-term conventional ammunition management, it is also a rapid response measure to mitigate the risks posed by unsafe stockpiles. While measures such as developing ammunition surveillance capacity may take time, immediately reducing the quantity of ammunition stored in the same area, and extending the distances between it, reduces risks.

Objective 7: Establish adequate through-life systems for inventory management and record keeping of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control, including ammunition classification resulting from systematic ammunition surveillance

Rationale for the objective: National capacity to classify (allocate its ammunition to different roles or processes), quantify and identify the location of ammunition under national ownership and control is one of the prerequisites of effective through-life conventional ammunition management. It is not only critical from the perspective of ammunition safety (unstable ammunition needs to be identified and disposed of) or physical security (the loss or theft of ammunition needs to be identified and

addressed); it is a national security requirement. States that are unable to classify, quantify and identify the location of ammunition within their national stockpiles face difficulties in *inter alia* forecasting ammunition requirements (meeting daily ammunition expenditure rates) in the event of a need for self-defence; efficiently scheduling ammunition procurement to replace unserviceable or obsolete ammunition; and cost effectively replenishing the national ammunition stockpile. It is essential that States develop and maintain adequate conventional ammunition inventory management and record keeping systems.

Objective 8: Promote supply chain transparency to facilitate through-life diversion risk assessments when authorising conventional ammunition transfers

Rationale for the objective: Diversion can occur at any point along the conventional ammunition supply chain (from manufacture to eventual use or disposal). It is essential that the originating and recipient States of conventional ammunition transfers accept shared responsibility for combating diversion. Because diversion is difficult to fully address post-event, it is critical that transfer licensing authorities assess diversion risks prior to transfer. Generally, diversion occurs when a party to the supply chain either: 1) lacks the capacity to secure ammunition from loss, theft or unauthorized acquisition; or 2) wilfully diverts the transferred materiel. Supply chain transparency (knowing more about the onward supply chain), and undertaking risk assessments when authorising transfers, are therefore critical, interdependent means of reducing diversion risks.

Objective 9: Mitigate the risk of post-transfer conventional ammunition diversion, including through the use of end user certificates or functionally equivalent documents

Rationale for the objective: End user certificates and equivalent documents are widely, although not universally, employed by States to *inter alia* mitigate the risk of post-transfer conventional ammunition diversion. In this specific regard, end user certification may serve two purposes: 1) to establish the identity of the end user, which allows the authorising State to assess whether that end user poses a diversion risk; and 2) to ensure that the end user does not re-transfer conventional ammunition to a party that was not the object of the originating State's pre-transfer diversion risk assessment. The surety that end user certification provides to the exporting State is enhanced by identifying the end user more precisely and by introducing assurances with the end user; among the most advantageous being 'non-retransfer clauses,' which prohibit the end user from re-transferring materiel without the prior, written consent of the originating State.

Objective 10: Deny unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, access to useable cached, abandoned and uncleared conventional ammunition and its energetic material

Rationale for the objective: Cached or abandoned ammunition is attractive to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists. In addition, conventional ammunition, or the explosives sourced from it, is frequently used as a main charge in improvised explosive devices. Preventing the acquisition and illicit transfer of all weapons, ammunition, and related materiel by and among unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, is a priority. The explosive material within conventional ammunition (including material harvested from abandoned explosive ordnance and unexploded ordnance), however, can provide terrorist groups – and certain criminal organizations – with safer, more reliable and more enhanced performance than would typically be achieved through

the production of homemade explosives. In addition, the mass production by organized criminal groups and terrorists of improvised weapon systems that are specifically designed to fire or launch conventional ammunition underscores the need for more effective recovery and disposal of useable cached, abandoned and uncleared energetic material, sourced from conventional ammunition.

Objective 11: Enhance the traceability of conventional ammunition under national ownership and control

Rationale for the objective: When investigating conventional ammunition diversion, authorities often need identifying information about the ammunition to subsequently establish the identity of the authorised State end user and, if possible, why the conventional ammunition is not in that State end user's possession or control. With many types of conventional ammunition in national stockpiles, the primary identifier is the lot number, which is identical for all units in that lot. Lot numbers can be marked on ammunition packaging or, particularly for larger types of conventional ammunition, on the individual item itself. Lots have volumes ranging from thousands to millions of units, depending on the type of conventional ammunition. For authorities investigating seized or recovered conventional ammunition, large lot sizes pose challenges. Conventional ammunition from one lot may be used to fulfil different contracts/shipments to different procuring States/end users, and it may be very difficult, following post-diversion recovery, to determine from which of the authorized/lawful State customers the split lots may have been diverted. One possible solution, where consistent with national law, feasible, and economically viable, is for procuring States to request application of 'sub-lot' numbers at the time of manufacture. These numbers are a sub-set of the 'actual' or 'head' lot number and serve to sub-divide the lot. If used, sub-lot marking increases the possibility of identifying the State customer or end user in relevant records. In the absence of lot numbers, basic markings applied to individual units of conventional ammunition (identifying the manufacturer and year of production) may be employed in some cases, where consistent with national law, feasible and economically viable, to help detect and monitor ammunition diversion. In some cases, new technologies and processes may offer cost-effective solutions for individual marking or tagging during and after manufacture.

Objective 12: Enhance analysis of conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking and foster voluntary information-sharing on subregional, regional and international conventional ammunition diversion and trafficking

Rationale for the objective: Cross-border trafficking of conventional ammunition could be addressed more effectively through coordinated approaches at subregional, regional and international levels. Unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, that operate across borders often share common sources of conventional ammunition, which makes subregional, regional and international information-sharing on conventional ammunition diversion particularly useful.

Objective 13: Where consistent with national laws, enhance law enforcement, customs and border control data collection and analysis on diverted conventional ammunition

Rationale for the objective: Collecting data on seized and recovered conventional ammunition, within the context of national law enforcement and customs and border control operations, is fundamental to identifying, analysing and redressing diversion. In some instances, law enforcement and customs and border control agents overlook

ammunition while investigating weapon trafficking. More widespread data collection and information sharing on diverted conventional ammunition would support efforts to control ammunition diversion and trafficking and refine tools to address it. This information can also support transfer licensing risk assessments and, ultimately, the revision of transfer control laws, regulations and processes.

Objective 14: Strengthen gender mainstreaming and the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in through-life conventional ammunition management

Rationale for the objective: States have long recognised the negative consequences of unplanned explosions at munition sites as well as diversion of conventional ammunition, and their differing impacts on women, men, girls and boys and their livelihoods. Women, in particular, are more vulnerable to violence stemming from ineffective ammunition management committed through gender-based violence. There is also an increased recognition of the importance for the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation and leadership of women in all aspects of through-life conventional ammunition management. However, there remain gaps in mainstreaming a gender perspective into conventional ammunition management activities, and in better understanding the implications of the differential impacts resulting from ineffective management of conventional ammunition on women, men, girls and boys. A gender perspective provides key insights into how individuals and groups are differentially impacted by armed conflict and weapons, and gender inclusivity makes for better and more effective arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. The growing body of research in this area indicates gaps in *inter alia* data collection on gendered impacts resulting from ineffective management of conventional ammunition; and the exchange of good practice and lessons learned in integrating a gender perspective into ammunition management policy and practice, including in the context of international, regional and subregional cooperation and assistance. In order to address such gaps, there is a need to consider ammunition management through its life cycle, using a gender analysis, in order to identify relevant entry points for gender mainstreaming.

Objective 15: Foster cooperation with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry to enhance through-life conventional ammunition management

Rationale for the objective: Non-governmental sectors, including civil society, academia, research institutions and industry, have key roles to play in relevant fields of conventional ammunition management, including *inter alia*: technological developments pertaining to the safety, security and traceability of ammunition; the development of supply chain management systems (including systems developed to enhance the supply chain security of civilian market commodities); investigations into conventional ammunition accidents (notably unintentional explosions); and the evaluation of programmes that are designed to enhance conventional ammunition management, including within the framework of international cooperation and assistance. Technical solutions and good practice derived from these fields could have the potential to improve through-life conventional ammunition management.