



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



First Committee of 80th Session of UN General Assembly

Cluster 3: Conventional Weapons

Statement of Greece

Delivered by Mr. Pantelis Margaritis, Minister Counsellor, Disarmament Expert

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Mr. Chair,

Greece fully aligns with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to contribute a few remarks in our national capacity.

My country remains fully committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), that together with its Protocols, sets the framework on compliance of military practice with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

We believe that the Convention offers the appropriate forum to address the issues raised by emerging technologies, particularly Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).

Following the Secretary General's first report on LAWS, we call all Parties to the CCW to fulfil the mandate of the GGE on LAWS in a timely manner and to work towards the further codification of international law under the CCW.

In particular, Greece stresses the importance of ensuring that the potential transfer and use of LAWS do not lead to violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Recent developments on manufacturing of armed UAVs with commercial parts and components, have significantly altered the nature of armed conflict, and pose additional challenges regarding increased production, acquisition, transfer and use of UAVs for the international peace and security. We support calls for further multilateral exchanges on this important matter.

Mr. Chair,

Greece considers the threat posed by the diversion, illicit trafficking and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition as one of the most important challenges to peace and security on national, regional and global levels.

Greece is committed to the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action and has undertaken the appropriate actions through annual reporting and provision of additional data on arms transactions.

We also welcome the establishment of the Global Framework on Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management, aimed at preventing diversion and unintended explosions.

The Arms Trade Treaty constitutes an indispensable tool for curtailing the illicit trade of conventional weapons. We call on all States, to ratify or accede to the Treaty without further delay, and on the Parties to comply with their obligations.

Moreover, Greece reiterates its support to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), as an effective humanitarian disarmament instrument that has contributed the last decades to diminishing the active use of a dreadful conventional weapon and also to eliminating huge national stockpiles of millions of such mines.

Nevertheless, we are deeply alarmed by the re-emergence of the use of this weapon, in particular in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

To conclude, Greece stands ready to continue working for the strengthening of all key conventional arms control instruments.

I thank you