

Check against delivery!

**STATEMENT BY MS. KRASSIMIRA BESHKOVA,
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I., DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BULGARIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK**

**80TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
24 October 2025**

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add several remarks in my national capacity.

Chair,

Russia’s continuous military aggression against Ukraine has demonstrated that progress in conventional arms control is of paramount importance for the international security and the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. We particularly condemn Russia’s use of anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions on Ukrainian territory which cause indiscriminate killings of civilians and leave a terrible legacy of suffering for the years to come. These irresponsible actions must halt immediately.

In that vein, we continue to strongly advocate for adherence to the humanitarian principles and objectives of the Anti-Personnel Land Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and to fully support mine actions across the world, including mine clearance and stockpile destruction, victim assistance and risk education, that alleviate human suffering and save civilian lives. We welcome the recent adoption of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan by the 2024 Ottawa Convention Review Conference and we call for its steadfast implementation.

Furthermore, we remain committed to upholding the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its five Protocols as an effective multilateral platform for responding to present and future challenges emanating from the developments of weapons technologies, including the lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Since its establishment in 2017, we have been consistently engaged in the deliberations of the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS to clarify, consider and develop aspects of an effective and comprehensive normative and operational framework on LAWS, including through the so called “two-tiered approach”. We stand ready to support the adoption of a substantive outcome report based on the Chair’s rolling text, and to move ahead towards negotiations of an instrument on LAWS within the CCW framework.

As Chair of the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, Bulgaria is also proud to present this year’s resolution on the implementation of the CCW, and calls upon all Member States to unanimously support it.

Mr. Chair,

Bulgaria continues to champion the control of conventional arms and ammunition, taking into account the Action Plan until 2030 adopted by the Review Conference of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the successful endorsement of the Global

Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and the outcome of its preparatory meeting of States held in June 2025. Determined in particular to combat the illicit trade in conventional weapons that fuel armed conflicts and sponsor organized crimes and terrorism, we call for the universalization and the full and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty as the key international instrument establishing the highest possible common standards for the international trade in conventional weapons. Vigorous control on the production and the supply channels as well as on the storage facilities and demilitarization processes has proven to be the most effective measure against conventional arms diversion incidents that also responds to emerging threats and helps building trust among States.

Thank you, Mr. Chair!