

Statement by the United States

Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons

UNGA First Committee

October 23, 2025

AS DELIVERED

Thank you, Chair.

The United States remains firmly committed to addressing the challenges to international peace and security that are related to conventional weapons. Today, I want to highlight several areas where meaningful progress is both necessary and achievable.

First, we welcome the successful conclusion of the preparatory meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. Poor ammunition management contributes significantly to regional instability, fuels conflict, and poses serious risks to civilian populations. The United States is committed to implementing this framework and calls on all States to engage constructively within its specific remit.

Second, we must confront the persistent problem of weapons diversion to illicit markets. The United States is particularly concerned about the troubling trend of corruption fueling weapons trafficking. Too often, weak governance structures and corrupt officials facilitate the flow of weapons from legitimate channels into the hands of criminals, terrorists, and other malign actors. This undermines not only regional stability but also the legitimate security needs of responsible States. We call for increased attention to this issue and stand ready to work with other States to counter the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Third, we acknowledge the successful conclusion of the 2025 sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. These sessions fostered substantive discussions on key conceptual issues, marking significant progress in reaching consensus on complex topics. The Group of Governmental Experts is the best forum for multilateral work on LAWS. We remain committed to advancing shared understandings in the GGE on the responsible development and use of these systems. The United States appreciates Czechia joining 10 other States in endorsing the Draft Articles on LAWS, and we encourage other States to endorse. We remain committed to this forum and call on all States to support the GGE as it works to fulfill its current mandate.

Chair, effective conventional weapons governance requires sustained commitment and practical cooperation. The United States is proud to be a global leader for conventional weapons destruction activities and calls on other States to increase their support for this vital work. We remain committed to working together on concrete measures that enhance security while protecting civilian populations.

Thank you.