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Excellency,

I have the honor of writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233, to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

I wish to again express my gratitude to all delegations for their hard work in preparation of and constructive support and active engagement at the second substantive session of the OEWG which took place from 15 to 19 August 2022. Through your contributions, you have given the Chair and the Chair's team the opportunity to make significant progress on the draft of the substantive outcome document of our OEWG before the third substantive session, which will take place in New York from 13 to 17 February 2023.

During our second substantive session, delegations have shared their views and positions, both in formal mode and in informal mode, and this has proved to be fundamental in setting the direction of the Group, and in identifying avenues towards the elaboration of a set of political commitments as a new Global Framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

I am equally grateful for the comments and specific inputs to the draft elements paper I had circulated in mid-July. My sense is that there is a high degree of convergence in the OEWG. At the same time, interactions during the second session have helped determine areas where there may still be diverging views. The discussions have greatly helped increase our shared understanding of both the existing gaps, as well as ways to address them, in promoting safe, secure and sustainable through-life management of conventional ammunition. This will enable us to work ahead towards a good substantive outcome document.

Allow me to share with you a procedural timeline until the next substantive session in February 2023:

- First, I am grateful to all delegations that have already provided written inputs; I would welcome additional **written inputs to be sent to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by 15 September 2022, including on the sections “Implementation, Cooperation and Assistance” and “Follow-up”**. This will also provide an opportunity to those delegations that were not present at the second session and were not able to contribute to the discussion there, to make their views on the draft elements paper known. I would be grateful for an **indication whether your inputs can be shared with other delegations** to increase transparency and inclusiveness of the process. My team and I will subsequently take these inputs into account when drafting the next iteration of the substantive draft. Depending also on your written inputs, this next iteration may take the form of a revised version of the draft elements paper or a Zero draft for the substantive part of the outcome document. My team and I will only be able to assess the form of the substantive draft document once written inputs have been received.
- Second, taking into account your contributions and statements during the second session as well as the written inputs to be submitted by 15 September 2022, we will present you with a **revised substantive draft document probably by the end of October or beginning of November**. This takes into consideration that delegations will not have much time to work on such a document before the end of 1st Committee of the 77th UNGA.
- Third, I will be calling on delegations to participate actively during the inter-sessional period, including through informal consultations on the revised substantive draft document. Delegations can expect that a **series of informal consultations will take place mainly between November 2022 and mid-December 2022**, but possibly also in January 2023.
- Fourth, a subsequent revised version of the substantive document – a **third iteration of the substantive draft document** - will be made available after the series of informal consultations, and **in advance of the third substantive session of this OEWG in February 2023**. We aim to provide delegations with a sufficient amount of time to review this document and to prepare.
- Fifth, I am committed to use all available avenues to achieve a successful outcome document and I would like to have this document adopted by consensus. In this vein, and at a later stage in the inter-sessional process, I do not exclude the possibility of designating “**Friends of the Chair**” to help me in our deliberations regarding certain aspects of the substantive draft outcome document.

I want to clearly state that we will be able to use the time in the third session much more effectively if you communicate your views to the Chair and his team during the coming inter-sessional period. So please send any written comments that you might have as soon as possible. In this way, you are far more likely to receive a textual basis for our deliberations at the third substantive session that accords very closely with your respective positions.

My team and I, together with your support and engagement, remain firmly committed and are determined to realize a successful outcome to this OEWG following the roadmap that I just described.

In pursuit of this common objective, and building on the substantial gains we have made in this process, I intend to further reflect on ways to ensure a good substantive outcome document that all Member States can commit to.

As my team and I continue this reflection, I invite delegations to also **reflect on whether, as a contingency measure and only in case the need arises, the possibility of a fourth substantive session in 2023 should be factored in**, for example to be convened in late spring/early summer of 2023.

Such reflection, however, is only a contingency consideration. As I previously stated, my team and I are determined to do everything in our hands to allow the OEWG to complete our task at the third substantive session. But I think you will agree with me that we shouldn't risk anything that might jeopardise our significant efforts so far.

Just as a form of information, such a contingency measure would require a decision of the General Assembly, which **would need to be considered at the 1st Committee of the 77th UNGA in October** this year.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Albrecht von Wittke
Chair
Open-Ended Working Group on
Conventional Ammunition

All Permanent Missions
to the United Nations
New York

All Permanent Missions
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Geneva