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Excellency,

I have the honour 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 thank delegations for their active participation and constructive engagement at our last virtual informal consultation. I am pleased to share with you enclosed the final draft decision under agenda item 99 (bb) “General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”. Based on our exchanges during the two informal consultation meetings, this draft decision contains a mandate to convene the OEWG for an additional session of 5 days in New York in 2023 to complete its work. As mentioned previously, the adoption of this draft decision would trigger a programme budget implication.

Given that some delegations expressed concern about changing the title for the agenda sub-item under which the 78th session of the General Assembly would deal with the OEWG outcome at this stage, we have reverted in operative paragraph 3 to the standing title of the agenda sub-item.

The text of the final draft decision sponsored by France and Germany will be uploaded to e-deleGATE on 13 October 2022. As this is only a procedural decision, it will not be open for co-sponsorship.

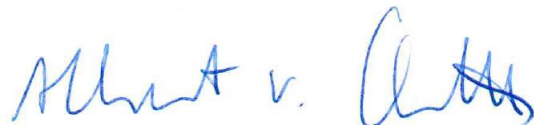
As highlighted previously, I continue to be firmly committed to realize with your support a successful outcome to this OEWG as early as possible and to make best use of the intersessional process for progress in our work.

In this vein and as per our previous meeting, I would like to invite delegations to an **in-person informal consultation which will be held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022, from 03.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m. (New York time) in Conference Room 6 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.** The informal consultation will focus on the plans for the inter-sessional period and the substance of the work of the OEWG.

I continue to remain available for bilateral meetings, in-person during my stay in New York from 19 to 21 October or virtually after that. If you would like a meeting, please contact the Secretariat at conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

I look forward to seeing many of the delegations in New York during the First Committee.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albrecht v. Wittke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

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