

## BRAZIL'S STATEMENT – GENERAL DEBATE – OEWG CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to recognize your conduction of the intersessional work of this group, which we believe has provided a solid ground for our discussions during the second session of the OEWG. You can certainly count on Brazil to the successful conclusion of this session.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil attaches great importance to the discussions on ammunition management. Conventional ammunition is essential for national defense and, in the case of ammunition for small arms, for a variety of legitimate security and civilian uses, which shall not be impinged upon. The proper management is, therefore, essential to preserve the legitimate uses of ammunition, in a safe and secure manner.

The inadequate ammunition management, regarding both its safety and security aspects, is one of the most pressing challenges of arms control. Unplanned explosions at munition sites have claimed thousands of lives, as it is well documented. Diversion of ammunition to illicit markets, especially those operating in scenarios of conflict and post-conflict, have claimed many more. The international community must act decisively to prevent such catastrophic events and curb the uncontrolled flow of conventional ammunitions and its harmful effects on international peace and security.

For this reason, it is of paramount importance that States respond appropriately at national, regional and global levels to ensure security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition in order to mitigate the risk of explosion, environmental contamination or diversion. The work of this OEWG - through the adoption of a substantive report and the establishment of a new global framework for ammunition management - should contribute to guiding and enhancing these efforts.

Mr. Chair,

The report of the latest GGE on ammunition provides us with an important foundation for the work of this OEWG. Its substantive recommendations, summarized in tables 1 and 2 from the sections V (ammunition safety) and VI (ammunition security), respectively, of the GGE report, should be the basis of our substantive discussions and should also be properly reflected on the political commitments in the future global framework. Of special importance to my delegation is that any future global framework should incorporate specific recommendations regarding marking and tracing of conventional ammunitions, a theme of crucial importance to the security of through-life management of ammunition.

In light of these considerations, Brazil expresses its support to the general structure of the draft global framework, circulated by the chair during the intersessional period, although we expect to see more from the GGE report reflected on this text, in the format of political commitments, and the rationale and measures related to them.

Among the objectives already listed in the “draft elements paper”, Brazil specifically supports the strengthened commitment towards a broader implementation of existing guidelines, notably the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), including the UN SaferGuard implementation support toolkit and related guiding documents (Objective 01), and the applicability of international and regional standards and guidelines aimed at assuring ammunition safety and security (Objective 05).

We also support political commitments aimed at improving ammunition exports control, including pre-transfer risk assessments, issuance and verification of end-user certificates and post-shipment and post-delivery controls, as well as other mechanisms for profiling and tracing illicit flows of ammunition. In this regard, Brazil attaches great importance to the Objectives 08 and 10 of the draft, safeguarded the main responsibility of national governments in terms of legislation and administrative and judicial processes to regulate and enact control. We believe that these measures are of paramount importance to prevent, combat and eradicate diversion of ammunition to illicit markets and, consequently, to strengthen the security of the supply chain.

Mr. Chair,

Brazil praises the relevance ascribed to international cooperation and assistance in the current document. We believe that the adoption of a needs-driven and nationally or regionally tailored approach is key in filling the current gaps in this front. Adequate cooperation and assistance initiatives can provide important instruments for a sustainable through-life ammunition management (Objective 03) and for the development of national capacities in different areas, as well as to facilitate information sharing (Objective 12). International legal assistance should also play a major role in combating networks of cross-border ammunition trafficking.

Brazil reiterates the need of investing in capacity building and exchange of information on ammunition management. Being an issue that requires technical expertise, long-term investment and intergovernmental cooperation, it is important that this group further elaborates on possible platforms to implement its recommendations.

Mr. Chair,

In order to give this topic duly visibility in this OEWG, Brazil co-convened, alongside Ghana, Jamaica, Singapore and Switzerland, the first Geneva informal dialogue on international cooperation and assistance for through-life ammunition management. The event offered an open platform to discuss needs and gaps in current cooperation mechanisms and will help this group to identify proper and better arrangements to strengthen international cooperation and assistance on ammunition management. Our joint working paper, submitted to the group, summarizes the conclusions reached during the dialogue and provides a solid starter for our discussions on this manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.