

Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition

Second Substantive Session

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Geneva, Switzerland

Mr Chair,

On behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, I would like to express our gratitude for the inclusion of civil society in these proceedings.

Control Arms works globally to stop irresponsible arms transfers that fuel conflict and armed violence. We do so by supporting the universalization and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the development and adoption of the strongest common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition.

Standards for ammunition marking, registration, storage, monitoring and regulation tend to be applied inconsistently when compared to those of firearms, which makes its diversion and misuse easier to conduct and more difficult to trace. The unchecked proliferation of ammunition prolongs the life cycle of weapons and fuels conflict, armed violence and insecurity around the world. Over the past 4 decades, unsafe storage of ammunition has also been the cause of over 600 accidental explosions at munitions sites resulting in over 30,800 casualties.

Ensuring safe and secure ammunition management is therefore a human security priority.

We welcome the OEWG's recognition of the value civil society brings to the conversation on ammunition management. Civil society addresses this priority issue by undertaking efforts to monitor the diversion of weapons and ammunition, research and develop diversion prevention and mitigation measures, and often plays a role in raising the alarm when diversion occurs. For example, in 2021 the Italian Peace and Disarmament Network in partnership with other Italian CSOs launched an investigation and is working to strengthen regulations after diverted cargo of Italian-made ammunition was seized in Senegal.

Control Arms supports the OEWG's focus on "through-life" ammunition management. Many existing international and regional frameworks focus primarily on Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). With this working group's broad mandate, there is an opportunity to address all aspects of ammunition management – from production, pre-transfer, transfer, stockpile, recovery, use and disposal. We therefore encourage the OEWG to continue to embrace a through-life approach to ammunition management that includes, but is not limited to, PSSM.

The ATT process can provide guidance on how a 'through-life' approach can translate into an effective framework to address diversion. The ATT Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, for instance, developed a report on [*Possible Measures to Prevent and Address*](#)

[Diversion](#) of arms and ammunition. The measures in this report span the life cycle of a transfer from beginning to end – from diversion risk assessments, end-user documentation, transit and transshipment controls to post-delivery checks..

The ATT process also takes a holistic approach to gender and can be instructive on how to incorporate gender perspectives in ammunition management. ATT States Parties developed a [set of commitments](#) on gender and gender-based violence (GBV) in 2019, agreeing to work together to (1) achieve gender-balanced representation in decision-making processes, (2) address the gendered impact of armed violence, and (3) support the implementation of GBV-related risk assessments. To complement this work, Control Arms will launch next week its ATT Gender Action Plan to operationalize the CSP5 decisions and highlight States' achievements relating to gender and GBV considerations.

Control Arms looks forward to engaging with this working group to continue to explore innovative and inclusive ways to address ammunition management.

Thank you.
