



# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

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**Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition**

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Statement by

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Mr. Chair,

Let me congratulate you to your speedy recovery.

The Czech Republic fully supports the statement of the European Union. Let me give you some brief comments from national perspective. The Czech Republic is fully aware, that inadequately managed ammunition poses a serious danger to society in affected countries. Diverted ammunition provides deadly tools to armed violence and conflicts around the world.

Czech Republic welcomes the comprehensive stockpile safety, security and management measures addressed in the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

However actions must be feasible. Especially marking is a sensitive and complex issue. Several technical, economical and administrative issues still remain unsolved. For instance, cartridges are usually made from soft brass and thus any rather shallow marking cannot be considered as truly permanent.

As UNIDIR report says: marking is very rapid; cartridges can be marked in the space of several seconds. But even delay of several second per cartridge could dramatically affect the production's efficiency and speed. Especially in current situation in Europe, this could have negative impact to legitimate procurement policies of armed and security forces.

But even detailed marking without proper stockpile management, robust licensing policy, end user checks do not prevent diversion of ammunition.

So far the Czech Republic supports recommendations given by Group of Governmental expert.