

## **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**

Statement at the informal meeting of the Open-ended working group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition

25 May 2022

*Statement delivered by Samuel Paunila, Head of AMAT, GICHD*

Mr Chair,

On behalf of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), I would like to express our deep gratitude for organising this meeting and giving a platform for civil society organisations to contribute to the Open-ended working group (OEWG).

The GICHD is a strong supporter of this process and firmly believes in the need for a global and comprehensive framework to support safe, secure and sustainable ammunition through-life management at the national, sub-regional, regional and global level.

We commend the leadership of Germany in this regard, and look forward to supporting the work of this Open-Ended Group.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

For more than a decade the GICHD has supported States in managing their ammunition according to good practice. Since 2019, these efforts have intensified when we, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and its UN SaferGuard Programme, established the Ammunition Management Advisory Team as part of the GICHD, or AMAT for short.

AMAT is a key output in realising Action 22 of the UN Secretary-General's *Agenda for Disarmament*. Its role is to provide technical advice and services to States in ammunition through-life management in line with international good practice, such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

Mr Chair,

The GICHD welcomes the elaboration of a set of political commitments as a new global framework to address existing gaps in ammunition through-life management.

Such global framework would go a long way in enabling states to identify, assess and address the risk of accidental explosions and diversion, and ensure effectiveness and sustainability of international cooperation and assistance.

A key challenge faced by States requesting, providing and receiving technical assistance is how to strike a balance between tackling the immediate causes and consequences of accidental explosions and diversion, while at the same time addressing the systemic shortcomings that bring them about.

Addressing this challenge requires the adoption of ammunition through-life management approaches and the recognition of the intricate connection between safety and security of ammunition all along the supply chain.

Mr Chair,

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group. We remain committed to supporting your work in the months to come.