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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**COUNSELLOR AND FIRST COMMITTEE EXPERT**

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**MATTERS RELATED TO CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION SAFETY RISKS**

**OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**  
**FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION**

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24<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Conference Room 2,  
United Nations,  
New York

**Madam Chair,**

My delegation has been following the proposals and insightful inputs made by colleagues on various matters including issues related to conventional ammunition safety risks and others, with keen interest and, on our part, we wish to present the following proposals for consideration.

**Madam Chair,**

2. Ghana joins other delegations in emphasizing that unsecured and poorly managed ammunition stockpiles fuel insecurity. Massive diversion of ammunition to illicit markets has been a catalyst for armed conflict, organized crime and terrorism. Moreover, diverted ammunition is increasingly used to assemble improvised explosive devices.

3. In that regard, we propose that a new global framework should elaborate a set of political commitments by States to adopt measures for the safe storage of ammunition. States should be encouraged to adopt existing standards such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) which were developed in 2011 under the UN *SaferGuard* Programme. We also believe that it is important for the new global framework to take into consideration the level of development and capacities of Member States.

4. Regional Organizations in the position to do so are encouraged to consider the development of standards and guidelines to respond to the regional priorities for Member States within the region.

5. At the National level, States should also be encouraged to develop comprehensive guidelines, policies and standard operating procedures for the safe storage of ammunition. **I thank you.**