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STATEMENT

BY

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**GHANA'S INTERVENTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION SECURITY**

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

New York, 23–27 May 2022

18th March 2022
Security Council Chamber,
United Nations,
New York

Mr. Chair

Our delegation is happy to see you well and able to assume your role as Chair of the Open Ended Working Group (OWEG) on Conventional Ammunition.

Mr. Chair

2. Ghana is very concerned about the unceasing illicit flow of weapons and ammunition to militant groups in West Africa, most of whom are engaged in terrorist activities and armed conflict against states in the region. The impact of these illicit flow of Small Arms and Light weapons in West Africa has led to about 346 terrorist attacks on the African continent within the first quarter of 2022 alone, 49% of which took place in the West African sub-region.

3. In Burkina Faso, for instance, the incidents of the detonation of IEDs and explosives rose from about 80 in 2016 to more than 1,800 in 2019, representing an increment of 650% over a four (4) year period. This has been accompanied by an increasing death toll. Between 2016 and 2019, more than 4,000 deaths were recorded in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Arms and ammunition trafficking have also caused internal displacement of about 2.2 million in Nigeria, 350,000 in Mali, and 140,000 in Niger.

Mr. Chair,

4. The situation in West Africa and the Sahel suggests that we need global concerted action to deal decisively with the security of conventional ammunition in order to deprive terrorists and extremists groups such as the Islamic State's

West African Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram of having access to arms and ammunitions which they use in their destabilization activities across the Sahel.

5. It is, therefore, our hope that the new global framework would elaborate a set of political commitments by States to adopt measures to prohibit the transfer of ammunition to terrorist and other extremist groups across the region.

Mr. Chair,

6. We wish to propose that the new global framework ~~should~~ adopt a set of criteria for States to consider in the transfer of ammunition. The minimum criteria elaborated in the Arms Trade Treaty, provides an excellent starting point that States can further work on.

Mr. Chair,

7. Finally, given that the definition of the principle of diversion appears to be unclear under various global frameworks. It is the hope of my delegation that the new global framework would provide some clarity on what constitutes diversion.

I thank you.