

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this working group. My name is Amelie Namuroy, and I am the Program Officer for the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

IANSA and its more than 500 network members acknowledge the efforts being made by the Chair and Member States to ensure that this Open-Ended Working Group continues to recognize the importance of civil society participation and remains open to hearing our contributions.

After the first substantive session, we were also honoured to participate in the informal dialogues led by Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, Singapore, and Switzerland, which considered a sensitive albeit indispensable aspect for improving States' capacity to provide security and safeguard ammunition: international cooperation and assistance. IANSA hopes the same open-minded, productive and collaborative environment that allowed for a frank exchange between States' representatives, NGOs, and experts in the field can be translated to this second substantive session.

IANSA remains gravely concerned that conventional ammunition mismanagement leads to unwanted explosions and, more importantly, diversion. IANSA stresses the importance of preventing ammunition diversion by supporting stronger measures for investigation and analysis at all levels. For example, aligning a political commitment to a global framework on conventional ammunition with relevant regional legally binding instruments can be linked to States aligning national legislation to these commitments and instruments and improving their capacities.

Mr. Chair, IANSA would also like to draw the attention of this Open-ended Working Group to the comprehensive scope of its mandate. For this group's final work to be truly relevant, it needs to touch upon the needs of all government officials involved in promoting ammunition safety and security. In the case of SALW ammunition, this entails looking beyond military use and Physical Security and Stockpile Management and understanding the needs of a wide range of professionals such as customs officers, police investigators, criminal prosecutors, intelligence services, border control officers, and ballistic technicians among others. In the same way, looking into incorporating mechanisms to regulate and mitigate the harm caused by civilian-held ammunition is paramount. In each case, analysis and recommendations must fully include and integrate people responsible for gender-responsive solutions.

IANSA underscores what was stated in the briefing for Regional Groups: that a comprehensive approach is needed since "the chain of conventional ammunition safety and security measures is only as strong as its weakest link". Regarding the diversion of SALW ammunition, these links, more often than not, can be identified as national legislative gaps regarding the through-life management of ammunition, the lack of States' capacity to train their police and border control officers as well as others to prevent and investigate ammunition trafficking or the absence of data collection and analysis on ammunition for effective investigations. IANSA highlights the need for a comprehensive outcome document in terms of its reach and object that also facilitates **international assistance designed to improve national capacities to prevent diversion**.

Finally, IANSA would like to particularly emphasise the Group of Governmental Experts' recommendation for the **development of voluntary operational guidelines related to security aspects of the through-life management of ammunition - the Supply Chain Technical Guidelines**. Hearing how the discussion developed on agenda item 5.f during yesterday's morning session, we were pleased to hear member states express support for the IATG platform in a way that it can be enhanced to provide the necessary security guidance to ammunition management. IANSA stresses the importance of practical guidelines, especially for states and regions starting or increasing their capacity to manage arms and ammunition. Good practices on how to secure the management of SALW ammunition can be found in existing national, sub-regional, and regional policies. Some were mentioned in the first substantive session, relating to marking and tracing systems, international cooperation regarding information sharing, and coordination for monitoring and preventing diversion.

IANSA stands ready to continue contributing to the discussions and constructively engaging with this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.