

Ireland Intervention: Set E of Chair's guiding questions

18 Aug 2022

Geneva

Set E:

2. What more could be done to encourage relevant industry, civil society, and academia to support safe, secure, and sustainable through-life conventional ammunition management, as appropriate?
3. How could the OEWG further consider gender perspectives and implications on the through-life management of conventional ammunition?

Question 2:

- Civil society, industry, and academia, as is so often the case in disarmament and arms control processes, play a crucial role in the elaboration of our work this week and throughout the mandate of this Open-Ended Working Group, as well as in the implementation of the global framework we eventually agree upon. In this regard we very much welcome the valuable input provided in yesterday's afternoon session.
- It is important that we engage a range of experts to discuss the gamut of technical solutions for enhanced ammunition controls, including for the identification of diverted ammunition when it is recovered in contexts of conflict and criminal violence, in illicit arms interdiction efforts, or in monitoring and verification. The involvement of arms control and technology professionals would also provide important perspectives for addressing the 'technology divide' between states, and for helping to ensure that emerging technologies can be employed in contexts where they are most needed, and that 'low technology' solutions are fit to purpose and sustainable.
- We also emphasise the important role that civil society plays in increasing accountability and transparency in ammunition management and conventional arms control more broadly. We need to make better use of the vital work of civil society actors who are critical to ongoing action in this field. This is not only limited to research, but also to informing and shaping all levels of decision-making. The participation of civil society in the work of this group is, therefore, imperative in understanding the different stages of through-life ammunition management and ensuring evidence-based decision-making.

Question 3:

- We would like to emphasize the importance of a gender-responsive approach to arms control, and in particular the value of gender perspectives throughout each phase of ammunition through-life management.

- Ireland is pleased to support the joint-statement by Panama and a group of states, and welcomes the working paper on 'Gender Mainstreaming Ammunition Through Life Management' submitted by Panama, Small Arms Survey and UNIDIR. These documents add to the growing literature on the topic, and contain several recommendations that contribute to the OEWG's further consideration of gender perspectives and implications on the through-life management of conventional ammunition.
- These recommendations include to:
 - Ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women throughout the development and implementation of the global framework along with measures to ensure accountability and track progress;
 - To support research of the gendered impacts of unplanned explosions and diverted ammunition, including through the collection of disaggregated data;
 - And to review current through-life ammunition management practices through a gender lens, among several other recommendations, among several other recommendations the group should consider.
- Thank you chair