



The dangers of the increasing stockpile of conventional ammunition

Submitted to: Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Munitions.

Submitted by: Joint intervention from the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights (with advisory capacity in the Economic and Social Council) and Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments

Thank you, Mr. President

The accumulation of surplus stocks of conventional ammunition, which are deposited in inappropriate places or poorly managed, poses a great danger because it may threaten the stability of public safety through explosions or environmental pollution. Moreover, poorly managed unsecured ammunition stockpiles can easily be diverted to illicit use that may increase deaths from various forms of armed violence.

Mr president



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Armed groups have exploited the war against terrorist organizations to store weapons, and this is not evidenced by the increased risk of unplanned explosions in weapons and ammunition storage sites, especially in densely populated areas, causing civilian casualties. This is what Libya and Iraq have previously been exposed to, where armed militias are exploiting the dangers that they face. It is represented by ISIS, Al-Qaeda and others on the security of the state and society to be present in the field confrontations, possess weapons and ammunition, and even store them in a cumulative manner. The poor storage of explosives and ammunition in the port of Beirut led to a massive explosion in the port on August 4, 2020, which, according to the United Nations, killed 190 people, and injured more than 6,500 others, including a thousand children. The explosion also caused the displacement of about 300,000 people after their homes became unviable for housing. The World Bank also estimated that the size of Lebanon's economic losses ranged between 6.7 and 8.1 billion dollars.

Hence, both the Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights and Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments confirm that the storage of weapons by fighters represents the main source of waves of cross-border violence in countries experiencing armed conflicts, as well as a pressing obstacle to the reconstruction of collapsed or fractured countries. In a manner that requires the adoption of a set of mechanisms through which it is possible to confront the storage of weapons, especially small and medium ones, inside homes, hospitals, schools and museums, and are widely used within countries, especially in light of the flare-up of disputes between armed factions and militias, which indicates the complexities of getting rid of a habit or storage strategy. conventional



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munitions. They also stress that the safe and secure management of ammunition should not be seen as a separate set of technical activities, but rather it must be considered as part of the general efforts aimed at establishing peace in societies and achieving sustainable development goals and as a way to reduce violence

Therefore, the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights recommends in partnership with the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments

- An important component of conventional ammunition stockpile management and planning processes should be the implementation of a robust, effective and integrated risk management system.
- A comprehensive legal framework must be developed to support the safe, secure and sustainable management of ammunition at the national, regional and international levels.
- The United Nations or one of its concerned bodies must provide a comprehensive framework that includes the political commitments to manage the stockpile of conventional ammunition, to be agreed upon by all the parties.
- All countries must take corrective measures and measures that are safe and sustainable to manage the stockpile of conventional ammunition, through which it can ensure the protection of individuals and the environment from the dangers of exploding or diverting the course of this ammunition.



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