



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**STATEMENT**

**By the Representative of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre on the OSCE  
Activities related to Convention Ammunition**

at the Second Substantive Session of the OEWG on Conventional Ammunition,  
15-19 August 2022, Geneva

To be delivered on 17 August 2022

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to provide this informal session of the OEWG with a short overview of the OSCE's normative and programmatic work in the field of conventional ammunition.

The fight against illicit trafficking in conventional ammunition is an **integral part of the OSCE's wider efforts to address the conflict cycle**, including in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. International cooperation and the availability of practical assistance are important catalysts for preventing and combatting diversion and the illicit transfer of conventional ammunition. Sharing good practices and lessons learned also contribute to effective national controls, including stockpile management.

The OSCE is at the forefront of international efforts in this area and recognizes **complementarities and synergies** between global, regional and sub-regional mechanisms and processes in the field of conventional ammunition.

Indeed, we stand ready to **share our experiences** in implementing the **OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition**, adopted in the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation by participating States in 2003. To this day, along with its sister Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, this politically binding document represents a unique achievement, whereby all 57 States committed to a set of negotiated and concrete procedures to address security and safety risks posed by the presence of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices in the region.

The OSCE participating States recognize the importance of addressing conventional ammunition issues through **global-level discussions** and the Secretariat has been contributing to the process under the auspices of this OEWG.

One role of regional organizations, such as the OSCE, is to encourage dialogue aimed at the **development of joint, coherent solutions** to conventional ammunition-related safety and security challenges by aligning the various agreements and mechanisms.

Let me use the remainder of my time this afternoon to highlight a few salient, **enabling factors** that have underpinned the OSCE normative and practical assistance efforts in the field of conventional ammunition. I will focus on the following four elements:

- Our comprehensive approach to security;
- The regional nature of OSCE efforts;
- Our focus on national ownership and capacity development; and
- The OSCE Assistance mechanism.

With respect to the OSCE's **comprehensive approach to security**, conventional ammunition issues extend beyond the realm of arms control and disarmament; they also play a role in efforts to counter terrorism and organized crime, enhance border security and management, support reform and cooperation in the security sector, as well as support to disaster risk reduction.

Regarding the **regional nature of OSCE efforts**, conventional ammunition issues are tackled across the region and sub-regions, capitalising on synergies and opportunities to coordinate resources and efforts. These regional and sub-regional efforts also contribute to reinforcing confidence, security and transparency in the OSCE area.

OSCE efforts **focus on national ownership and capacity development**. Participating States

have recognized their primary responsibility for their own stockpiles of conventional ammunition, throughout their lifecycle. In strengthening national capacity, the OSCE aims to enable pS, in the long run, to deal with problems related to conventional munitions on their own. This aim requires that OSCE efforts build national capacity in a holistic manner.

Finally, on the **OSCE assistance mechanism**, it is worth noting that the Organization includes within its normative base on convention ammunition, a general assistance mechanism. By funnelling requests for assistance through the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, this mechanism enables rapid and cooperative technical assistance to participating States across the spectrum of issues related to conventional ammunition and in various stages of the life cycle.

I would also note that, based on the OSCE's Guidance note on Mainstreaming Gender into the OSCE Assistance Mechanism for SALW and SCA, assistance projects benefit from a **gender-based assessment** in their development and implementation, contributing significantly to empowerment of women in this area.

Mr Chair,

In conclusion, through international cooperation, promulgation of good practices, and sharing of accumulated expertise, the OSCE will continue to support this process and contribute to the fight against illicit trafficking in conventional ammunition in our region in the years to come.

I thank delegations for their attention and thank you, Mr Chair, for this opportunity to address the OEWG.