

*Open-Ended Working Group on conventional ammunition*

*Geneva, 15–19 August 2022*

*General Statement – POLAND*

*Mr. Chair,*

*Poland would like to thank you for your considerable efforts and wish to congratulate on your effectiveness in steering the work of this Group. We appreciate the draft of the political commitments for a tentative structure of new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance.*

*Poland wishes to emphasize the importance of initiatives for strengthening international norms and values that shape international security and cooperation in the fields of arms control as well as arms transfers control. Both are important components of a common approach to cooperation, aimed at building mutually reinforcing relations based on the fundamental norms expressed by the UN Charter. We are all observing in astonishment as these values are being brutally violated by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine, which use conventional ammunition in ways that blatantly violate International Humanitarian Law. We need to realize that this debate will be conducted under unprecedented circumstances.*

*Mr. Chair,*

*We welcome the draft elements paper for a global framework which constitutes the basis for further discussion on the final version of the common approach agreed by the widest possible consensus. We believe that, the main assumption regarding safety and security guidelines based on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and other voluntary mechanisms is correct and can provide the desired degree of universalization. This goal, however, requires appropriate technical, organizational and financial support at the international level for states with low capacities, if they decide upon seeking essential assistance. Safety and security risks, including diversion of ammunition are regulated by existing instruments and standards adopted by international arms transfer control regimes such as Wassenaar Arrangement and the Arms Trade Treaty on the basis of end user documents and the voluntary diversion consultation mechanisms. These instruments could provide the starting points for further considerations within the OEWG.*

*Initiatives presented by states and other participants during the first session of OEWG, and their considerations related to the OEWG conclusions on the zero draft document, are welcome and appreciated. Some of them, however, require further detailed deliberations and explanations. The new global framework for through-life ammunition management is based on political commitments adopted in line with the principle of consensus. Therefore, the idea of submitting implementation reports, stockpiles reports or the development of national action plans on conventional ammunition management should be considered only on a voluntary basis in accordance with the national security principles and in line with national legal systems. The initiative to develop a new marking, labelling or tagging systems for ammunition, including small arms ammunition, as well as adoption of customer (end users) identification codes and the implementation of the appropriate data collection systems requires in-depth and critical analysis. These proposals should not impose measures that will*

*undermine the civil rights of private costumers, as well as introduce additional burdens or obligations of technical and financial character on the arms industry.*

*Mr. Chair,*

*The proposals included in the zero draft elements paper show how much can be achieved on the path to the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 76/233 establishing the OEWG and, at the same time, how much remains to be done in this regard. We are convinced, and I think this feeling is being shared by other states present in this Chamber, of the importance of solutions adopted by consensus. It is important that future political commitments in the form of a new global framework, that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, reflect respect for existing national legal systems, practices for ammunition management and the principle of voluntary acceptance of proposed international solutions in this field.*

*Thank you*