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Statement of the Small Arms Survey¹
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Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition
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Thank you, Mr. Chair. Distinguished members of the Open-ended Working Group and representatives of international organizations, regional organizations and civil society,

The Small Arms Survey, an associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement in Geneva, Switzerland, welcomes the progress made in developing a set of political commitments as a new global framework for through-life management of conventional ammunition, and we congratulate the Chair and his team for leading this process so ably.

Our research indicates that 636 incidents of Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites took place between 1979 and 2021, killing or injuring more than 30,000 people and causing hardship for many others in their families and communities. Furthermore, the latest figures from our Global Violent Deaths database show that in 2020, there were at least 210,000 firearm-related violent deaths across the world, an unknown portion involving diverted ammunition. The elaboration of a new global framework is an ambitious and much needed effort which we all hope and expect will have real world effects and consequences.

We believe that, like in other arms control instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Firearms Protocol to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the human security objectives should be made explicit in the new global framework. Aligning this effort with existing agendas, especially on Women,

¹An associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, accredited to this substantive session (see A/CONF.239/2022/INF/1).

Peace and Security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, would provide the appropriate yardsticks against which progress can eventually be tracked.

The Small Arms Survey also supports the OEWG taking up the recommendations of the 2020–21 Group of Governmental Experts to incorporate a gender analysis into the through-life management (TLM) of conventional ammunition. From the Survey's point of view, this implies that both the fully elaborated TLM model, as well as the eventual guidelines on diversion prevention, be gender mainstreamed. The Survey has pioneered work in this domain over the last year with two research and policy publications released jointly with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs: [*Making Room for Improvement: Gender Dimensions of the Life-cycle Management of Ammunition*](#) (2020) and [*Gender-sensitive Ammunition Management Processes: Considerations for National Authorities*](#) (2021). Not only does gender analysis allow authorities to address the different concerns of women, men, girls and boys in ammunition management policy and practice; it also offers an important lens to help assess the wide-ranging long-term impacts of ammunition diversion.

This is the focus of the recent Small Arms Survey and UNODA Briefing Paper, [*Extracting Evidence: Opportunities and Obstacles in Assessing the Gendered Impacts of Diverted Ammunition*](#). It finds that building the capacity of law enforcement and other relevant authorities to identify diverted small-caliber ammunition would allow them to better understand how this ammunition is used in serious cases of violence and crime, as well as the differentiated impacts of diverted ammunition on women, men, girls and boys. This means, for example, linking ammunition headstamp information with victim data. Enhancing these practices would also generate data for tracking progress towards SDG indicators related to armed violence and gender. This is just one example of how the work of the OEWG should consider and involve actors outside the traditional ammunition management domain.

Finally, we urge delegates to review the further specific suggestions for incorporating a gender analysis into the work of the group that are found in the joint working paper, developed by the Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR and a number of member state delegations, which is available to delegations on the dedicated OEWG website. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this intervention, and I wish the OEWG successful deliberations during this and its next session.