



Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Department for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

**Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition  
First Substantive Session, New York 23-27 May 2022  
General Exchange of Views**

**Statement by Sweden**

Ms. Vice-Chair,

Please allow me to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as Vice-Chair of this Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition. We regret that the Chair, Mr. von Wittke, was not able to join us in person here today and we hope for his swift recovery. However, we are grateful for your readiness to take on the role as Vice-Chair on such short notice, and we trust that your able leadership will guide us during the Chair's absence. I can assure you of the full support from the Swedish delegation.

Sweden fully subscribes to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Please allow me to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

Ms. Vice-Chair,

We meet here today to address challenges related to the through-life management of conventional ammunition. As recognised by the UN Secretary-General in his Agenda for Disarmament, the diversion of arms and ammunition fuels crime, terrorism and armed violence, including gender-based violence. Further, the ineffective management of ammunition stockpiles pose a serious threat to human security and undermines our efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As a supporter of Action 22 of the UN Secretary General's Agenda – 'Secure excessive and poorly maintained stockpiles' – Sweden fully shares the view that further progress must be made in this field.

Therefore, Sweden welcomes the establishment of this Open-ended Working Group as set out in resolution 76/233 “Problems arising from the from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”. Sweden fully shares the goals set out in this resolution and we recognise that more can, and indeed should, be done to enhance safety and security in the management of conventional ammunition stockpiles.

Sweden has joined several international instruments that regulate conventional ammunition through difference measures. Together with other States, we have also worked for the inclusion of ammunition in the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We still believe that the Programme of Action provides an effective framework for states to take on activities addressing small arms and light weapons ammunition. This Open-ended Working Group will cover conventional ammunition in a wider sense, and its mandate provides an opportunity to fill current gaps in the through-life management of ammunition.

As a donor to several initiatives addressing arms and ammunition management, such as the Saving Lives Entity, the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap and several civil society organisations, Sweden looks forward to fruitful discussions this week and to make progress on this important matter.

Thank you, Ms. Vice-Chair.