



United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition
Second Substantive Session, 15 – 19 August 2022

Agenda item 5f: Elaboration of a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance

Exchange among Member States on set B of guiding questions

Geneva 16 August 2022
Statement by Switzerland

Mr. Chair,

In complement to our interventions in May, let me underline the following three elements:

During the first Geneva informal dialogue on international cooperation and assistance, which Switzerland co-convened with Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica and Singapore, many participants highlighted the importance of national assessments and analyses, such as baseline assessments or gap analyses. These assessments and analyses help to identify, prioritise and address needs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. They are essential to promote national ownership, while also fostering confidence between stakeholders in international cooperation and assistance. We believe that the OEWG should consider promoting the use of such voluntary national assessments and analyses as well as encouraging support and guidance to that effect.

In relation to guidelines, Switzerland stresses the importance of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) at the global level. The IATG currently focus primarily on safety aspects of ammunition management and the security of stockpiles. They may not cover all through-life security measures at present. At the third review of the IATG for instance, some modules such as those on tracing, end use or international transfer were deliberately left for a subsequent review, awaiting the outcome of the GGE and OEWG. Since the IATG are a living document, it would in our view be possible to include new thematic aspects for which no guidance currently exists. Against this background, Switzerland re-emphasises that it would be most efficient and coherent to avoid the creation of parallel global standards in ammunition management. In this regard, we would also like to highlight the need for a State-led process, in cooperation with civil society, as well as the use of the UN SaferGuard programme as an umbrella when addressing potential gaps in through-life security guidance.

Mr. Chair,

The use of existing guidelines and good practices is vital for enhancing safe and secure ammunition management. International cooperation and assistance, notably training and advice on the IATG, and

IATG certification of experts by the UN are important avenues to further disseminate and promote the use of international guidelines, and their integration into national regulations and frameworks.

At the same time, Switzerland sees a need to foster information exchanges among stakeholders on experiences and lessons learnt in through-life ammunition management. Such exchanges could help distill and disseminate good practices, and potentially inform the formulation and review of guidance. The OEWG should explore the opportunity of a venue to that effect.

I thank you.