



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 C of guiding questions

Geneva 16 August 2022
Statement by Switzerland

Mr. Chair,

In response to the guiding questions related to safety considerations, I would refer to our statement on this topic at the first substantive session and add the following two elements:

First, ensuring the safety in ammunition transport is an important consideration in through-life ammunition management. It is part of the broader issue of transport of dangerous goods. This area is covered widely at the international and regional levels. The many international agreements and instruments on the transport of dangerous goods also apply to ammunition, while the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines address the transport of ammunition specifically. The Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe issued best practices on the topic. Switzerland believes that the OEWG should consider safety in ammunition transport, building upon what already exists.

Second, inventory management and record-keeping are key to ensure both safety and security in ammunition management. We believe that it is important to have adequate systems to that effect. While we reiterate our support for a through-life approach to ammunition management, the context of inventory management and record-keeping demonstrates that such an approach is particularly important for ammunition held or controlled by national authorities. In turn, we believe that the role of national authorities is limited in relation to inventory management and record-keeping of ammunition that is legally held by civilians. Therefore, we suggest that the OEWG adopts a differentiated approach regarding the scope of ammunition it covers, where this is specifically needed.

I thank you.