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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 E of guiding questions

Geneva 18 August 2022  
Statement by Switzerland

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Mr. Chair,

Switzerland attaches much importance to the regional and sub-regional levels in ammunition management. It is at those levels where challenges and experiences of States are often similar. Therefore, international cooperation and assistance *within* regions or sub-regions is essential. In parallel, Switzerland strongly believes in the benefit of strengthening cooperation *across* regions and their respective organisations, for example through the exchange of lessons learnt and for the development of best practices. The political commitments could encourage cross-regional cooperation.

Switzerland also attaches importance to a holistic approach to ammunition management. While States are the principal stakeholders, other stakeholders also have their part to play. In our perspective, civil society is an important stakeholder in national ammunition management and should be involved consistently to that effect.

Another important player is industry. Industry can serve as an incubator to develop and test new technologies, at the request of its clients, and contribute to strengthening safe and secure ammunition management. This role is often at the forefront of discussions. Beyond this incubator role of industry however, Switzerland also sees potential in nurturing the exchange of perspectives and a common understanding of policy, normative and technological developments between States and the industry.

Switzerland also values the role of academia and applied research in the safe and secure management of ammunition. Most notably, they are essential actors to gather and distill good practices from ammunition management implementation. Thereby, they foster the sharing of lessons learnt and evidence-based policy making. The OEWG should recognise and further encourage this contribution of academia and applied research.

Mr. Chair,

There is a growing body of evidence on the gendered impacts of ammunition diversion as well as unplanned explosions. The OEWG should take this body of evidence and the joint statement delivered

by Panama on Monday as a point of departure to further encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in ammunition management. Concretely, further research and exchanges of good practices can bolster our understanding of these impacts and inform adaptations of policies and practices. Furthermore, international cooperation and assistance is key to strengthen women's capabilities and networking in view of their full, equal and meaningful participation. In operational activities, ammunition management benefits from the involvement of both men and women. Gender considerations should therefore be part and parcel of a holistic approach to ammunition management that involves all relevant perspectives.

I thank you.