

STATEMENT BY CARICOM

14 February 2023

A pleasant morning to all the distinguished representatives at this important meeting. My name is Callixtus Joseph, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator at CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chair,

As it is the first time CARICOM has taken the floor, let me express our sincere appreciation for the transparent and inclusive manner in which you have led our work and steered preparations for this meeting. We want to thank you for all your leadership, hard work and dedication, which have been instrumental in this process.

CARICOM has always held the view that conventional ammunition should be subject to similar global guidelines as those of small arms and light weapons. The diversion of conventional ammunition fuels crime and violence, including gang and gender-based armed violence and terrorism, undermining sustainable development and good governance. For this reason, we welcome the political commitments outlined in the draft outcome document.

CARICOM wishes to highlight the following observations on the Global Framework Outcome Document in this spirit of cooperation.

A key conclusion of the Working Paper submitted by Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica, Singapore, and Switzerland on 25 January 2023 is that Sub-regional/regional organisations and mechanisms should be the primary level for cooperation and channelling assistance - and that International cooperation and assistance needs to be as sub-regional/regional as possible.

We strongly support this view and welcome Objective 3 of the Outcome document. Efforts of ammunition management should principally focus on building on what already exists. Therefore, strengthening sub-regional/regional organisations is critical for designing and delivering needs-driven, tailored and sustainable assistance at the national level. International cooperation and assistance need to be as sub-regional/regional as possible and should include regional organisations in planning and design.

We also welcome Objective 15 on the work of civil society, academia and research institutions. Civil society, academia, and research institutions have contributed immensely to global frameworks.

CARICOM also attaches particular importance to women's full, equal and meaningful participation. We, therefore, attach vital importance of gender mainstreaming as indicated in Objective 14.

Mr Chair,

CARICOM IMPACS, as the central regional organisation in the CARICOM Region, has been assisting its Member States to improve the management and security of national ammunition

management by strengthening national administrative frameworks and institutions, assisting with national assessment and providing technical and material support, including the destruction of obsolete and unserviceable stockpiles. We have partnered with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and in October 2022, CARICOM IMPACS and MAG signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide Ammunition Management assistance and support to all CARICOM Member States. We are proud that the fundamental principles of this joint assistance programme of CARICOM IMPACS and MAG are built upon the core principles outlined in the outcome documents, particularly national ownership.

We, therefore, stress the importance of national ownership. States are the principal stakeholders in ensuring the safe and secure management of ammunition.

At CARICOM, we commit to working with national authorities, the international community, other regional and sub-regional organisations, civil society, academia and research institutions to achieve safe and secure ammunition management.

I thank you