

OEWG Ammunition – 4th session
Opening Statement by the Delegation of Brazil
05/06/2023

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to commend the hard work that you and your team have put on this group throughout the last session and previously to this fourth session. My delegation recognizes the value of the document we have in hands and considers it a very good basis for this final stretch of negotiations. You can certainly count on Brazil to achieve the successful outcome of this group.

As Brazil recognized during the informal consultation, we believe that the text we have in hands provides strong basis for a consensual outcome document. We still have pending issues that should be dealt with in a targeted manner, without reopening the whole text, especially the parts in which a delicate balance was reached among many delegations. As we know, time is of the essence, and we should spend it this week to actually craft the best document we can during the time we have.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation understands that the Global Framework, once established, will be an important tool to all states to guide their own ammunition management policies, in line with their own national legislation present and future. It will fill existing gaps in terms of ammunition security and also be a foundational document for the regular institutional dialogue on comprehensive ammunition management. With that in mind, we should work this week with a view of building an effective mechanism, that considers the different circumstances of states, and that will have a concrete positive effect in international peace and security, notably in regions that are historically destabilized by diversion and illegal trafficking of conventional arms and ammunition.

At the same time, the document, since reflecting a political commitment, should be clear on its voluntary nature. The current paragraph 19 conveys this message very clearly and the current language of the items “a” and “b” of the objectives, which excludes the verb “commit”, also reflects the voluntary nature of the document. Further efforts to reflect the voluntary nature should solely aim at harmonizing the language throughout the document, while avoiding excessive reiterations that would weaken the text.

On the subject brought up by the statement read by Colombia, Brazil reinforces its support to the comprehensive approach, which includes all calibers of ammunition, and stresses our understanding that the totality of the global framework should be read taking into consideration the different capacities of the UN member states and the national ownership of the management of ammunition. Any gaps in capacity shall be dealt with through capacity building and cooperation rather than through the diminishment of our level of commitment, especially considering the mandate we have in hands.

Mr. Chair,

From my delegation's perspective, we have developed a document that, at this point requires sensible polishing. Since we have extensively revised the objectives during the last session,

maybe we should work on the rationale jointly with the objectives, in order to reach formal agreement on the whole document. This method of work might also be useful to resolve the nature of the rationale, which my delegation believes should be kept as an annex. In this regard, Brazil is ready to consider and to work on proposals that would help to settle this issue.

These are the general comments of the Brazilian delegation on the draft global framework, Mr. Chair. We hope to contribute to the specific discussions on the document along this week.

Thank you.