

Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition

Third Substantive Session

14 February 2023

New York City, USA

Mr Chair,

On behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, we would like to register our commitment to contribute positively and constructively to these proceedings as civil society stakeholders.

Control Arms welcomes the *Draft* Global Framework, as it provides a comprehensive list of guiding principles and measures to address gaps and challenges in through-life ammunition management, from ensuring effective supply-chain security to traceability of ammunition at the national level. We welcome in particular the inclusion of references to a pre-transfer diversion risk assessment process including 1) an analysis of goods in relation to the declared end-user and consideration of all parties involved in the transfer, including freight forwarders, brokers, consignees and other intermediaries.

To ensure a comprehensive approach to through-life ammunition management, Control Arms believes that the Global Framework would benefit from further consideration of ammunition safety and security risks during the production and pre-transfer stages. In particular, there are three key areas that we would like to see included in the draft:

1. Ammunition End-Use - States should consider the risk of diversion as it relates to end-use as well as end-user. A transfer can be made to an authorized end-user who then puts the ammunition to an unauthorized end-use. Without the careful consideration of both of these dimensions during the pre-transfer stage, it is possible to miss relevant diversion risks.
2. Export controls - it is important to ensure that the global framework better integrates export controls into through-life ammunition management. In this context, the inclusion of references to existing obligations, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on SALW would allow states to build upon the implementation of their existing commitments.
3. Human Rights and Humanitarian Law considerations - In the context of export controls, we would like to see firmly stated in the draft an acknowledgement that all international transfers of ammunition must be duly authorized by the exporting government. Prior to any authorization, we would also like to see a commitment by States to consider the risk that the ammunition to be transferred could be used to commit or facilitate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Mr. Chair, Control Arms also welcomes the inclusion of objective 14 on “Strengthen gender mainstreaming and the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in through-life conventional ammunition management”. In the context of the ATT, Control Arms has developed a comprehensive methodology which aims to assist states to mainstream gender into national practices through an actionable, effective, and results-based plan. This resource can be



easily adapted to assist states who wish to measure their progress towards gender mainstreaming in ammunition management and can serve as a guide towards developing gender-sensitive conventional ammunition management policies and programming.

Thank you for your time.