



**OEWG on conventional ammunition
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Statement to the Open-Ended Working Group on conventional ammunition

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KEEN AND CARE INITIATIVE, NIGERIA

Keen and Care Initiative (KCI) is a Non-Governmental Organization, established in 2007 in Nigeria. My name is Josephine Alabi and I am the Executive Director of Keen and Care Initiative and a member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

KCI's mission is to share lived experiences and engage on crucial issues related to gun violence, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and its ammunition, sustainable development, internal displacement, homelessness, and the participation of women in processes related to international security and disarmament, as well as to raise awareness of the differentiated impacts of gun violence on men and women.

Over the years and despite some challenges, KCI has engaged on several crucial issues at the local, national and international levels and carried out many activities, campaigns, and awareness-raising events to promote women's and girls' participation and advocate for solutions to the nefarious effects of the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

According to data found on the gunpolicy.org website¹², reports suggest that the level of firearms and ammunition smuggling in Nigeria is high. The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), in 2014, through its then comptroller-general, revealed that although the country had 84 approved border posts, there were over 1,400 illegal routes. The porous nature of these borders had aided arms proliferation in the country, leading to the spread of terrorist activities and other security challenges. Other reports show that aside from the cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition, criminals also steal arms and ammunition diverted from authorized holdings and routinely attack security personnel for such purposes.

In its report on the implementation of the United Nations Program of Action on small arms, Nigeria asked for assistance in obtaining equipment to mark small arms and training its personnel. These demands should also apply to obtaining and sharing technologies for the marking of conventional ammunition and the adequate training of personnel in the use of these technologies. Nigeria also requires international

¹ [Guns in Nigeria — Firearms, gun law and gun control \(gunpolicy.org\)](https://gunpolicy.org)

² <https://smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-AU-Weapons-Compass.pdf>

assistance to acquire equipment for the large-scale destruction of small arms and light weapons and the large-scale destruction of seized or damaged SALW ammunition.

We therefore urge government officials to:

- Adopt stringent marking, recording and security practices for ammunition provided to military and law enforcement stocks and personnel.
- Provide relevant state personnel with headstamp data collection guidelines, and information sharing protocols between relevant agencies for ammunition recovered from crime scenes.
- Increase efforts to acquire appropriate technologies and advanced training for the monitoring of borders and the destruction of illegal and surplus arms and ammunition, including through international assistance programs.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to address this assembly today.