

## **MAG Statement**

*Check against delivery.*

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Diversion of conventional ammunition and unplanned explosions impact people and communities in various ways, both immediately and several years after harmful events.

As clearly emphasised in the very first paragraphs, the Global Framework will be an instrument addressing both safety and security of all types of conventional ammunition and will underpin practical operations that meet people's and communities' needs, including living without fear of armed violence or possible explosions.

Once adopted, the Global Framework will enter the constellation of instruments that aim to protect and address the harmful consequences of conventional weaponry on people and communities. The Framework will strengthen the implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and complement them, filling various gaps, including those related to diversion and illicit trafficking. Such complementarity and interaction can also happen with other instrument aimed at protecting human beings. For example, the measures outlined in the Framework can be framed as practical implementation of the due diligence obligations to protect the right to life, minimising risk, without imposing an impossible burden on states. MAG outlined such interaction in the working paper we submitted for this session titled '*Weapons and Ammunition Management and Human Rights - Breaking down silos to improve human security*'.

All human beings should always remain central. That is why, drawing on our practical experience, we highlight the importance of risk education, which should remain in the framework. Similarly, we would like to join the voices supporting gender mainstreaming in the Framework, not only to reach gender equality, but also to take into account the views and lived experiences of women and girls.

Mr Chair,

the Framework should continue to remain comprehensive. As reminded by several States, the exclusion of small arms and light weapons ammunition from the scope of the Global Framework would significantly limit the capacity of the Framework of creating and maintaining human security. MAG has first-hand experience of several cases around the world that clearly show the need for a framework that underpins technical activities, including marking, safe stockpiling, and destruction of all types of ammunition.

As a global humanitarian organisation, MAG is very aware that the specificities of each context and the capacities of each stakeholder cannot be ignored. International cooperation and assistance should always be based on actual needs, as indicated in the Framework, and aimed at developing sustainable national and regional capacities, drawing upon the important experience and expertise at national and regional levels, such as those of CARICOM, ECOWAS, and RECSA.

More generally on international cooperation and assistance, we would like to highlight the importance of all states committing the necessary resources to realise the potential of the

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Framework. In the current geopolitical and economic climate, ongoing programmes that address the risks associated with conventional ammunition in surplus currently find themselves under increasing pressure due to funding cuts. For our collective ambitions to be realised this trend must be reversed.

This working group is very close to adopting a text that is unique in its genre and has the potential to pave new paths in the disarmament field. Just a few steps forward are necessary to adopt and then implement the Global Framework, which would protect the lives of many people and guarantee human security and development in the international community.

MAG would like to conclude by congratulating you and your team for your remarkable work to date, as well as the many States and other experts who have contributed to the drafting and shaping of the Global Framework.

Thank you, Mr Chair.