



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

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Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition
4th substantive session – New York, 5 June 2023

Statement by PORTUGAL

*Delivered by Mr Jorge Aranda
Minister Counsellor*

Chairman,

First of all, allow me to commend you and your team for the dedicated, inclusive and efficient way in which you have steered this process, including during the last session of this Working Group, which almost rendered superfluous this fourth session.

We remain convinced, as in the past, that a both ambitious and consensual outcome is possible, one which allows us to fulfil the mandate which we have received. It is with this conviction that we approach this final session, which should be focused on finding language that may help us to elaborate a set of political commitments, common to all, while accommodating national legitimate concerns, particular to some.

Chairman,

We align ourselves with the statement by the European Union, which had clear words on the consequences – not just for peace security and human rights, but also for sustainable development – of diverted ammunition, ranging from small-caliber ammunition to largest conventional ammunition.

This is one of the areas where size matters. In that sense, we joined the statement delivered by Colombia on behalf of a wide number of states, favoring the explicit reference to all types of conventional ammunition, from small-caliber ammunition to the largest conventional ammunition, and its entire cycle. This will help us to address our common challenges in a comprehensive manner.



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As we all know, diversion is one of the main effects arising from unsecured and poorly managed conventional ammunitions. We therefore attach great importance to the objective of promoting transparency throughout the supply chain in order to facilitate the comprehensive assessment of diversion risks.

And we believe that the international cooperation and assistance which our Global Framework rests upon may help us to reach that common objective.

Chairman,

Once we agree on an outcome document, and we are confident we will, we will just have taken a further step in addressing the existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, which concerns us all. We will then have to implement this Global Framework. So, we welcome concrete references in the text regarding the next steps to follow up and review on this process.

Also, in our future efforts to implement this set of commitments we could also benefit, in our view, from the rationale in the annex of this document, which, as an integral part of it, could provide important guidance in this respect.

One final word on the importance we attach to further strengthening the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of both women and men in all aspects of ammunition management, as highlighted in the joint statement promoted by Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago, to be delivered on behalf of a group of countries, including my own.

Thank you, Chairman.