



Co-operating to Disarm

STATEMENT

**DURING THE THIRD SUBSTANSIVE MEETING ON THE OPEN
ENDED WORKING GROUP ON CONVECTIONAL AMMUNITION
MANAGEMENT**

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NEW YORK**

**BY
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Chair, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Allow me first to congratulate the Chair for the job well done in guiding the process of coming up with a Global Framework.

I also commend the Secretariat on the progress made in drafting the Global Framework for Through – life Conventional Ammunition Management since the second Substantive Meeting on the Open -Ended Working Group in August 2022.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

RECSA is an intergovernmental Organisation with the sole mandate of building capacity of Member States and coordinating the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on the Prevention, Control and Reduction on Small Arms proliferation in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

RECSA welcomes the work of the General Assembly in considering steps to enhance cooperation in regard to the issue of Conventional Ammunition and fully supports the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition established in accordance with Resolution 76/233.

In a bid to improve capacity for safe, secure and sustainable Conventional Ammunition to reduce the risks of diversion and unintended explosions, RECSA and Member States have been heavily relying on the use of IATGs in the execution of WAM trainings, provision of stockpile safe storage facilities, destruction of obsolete and /or confiscated, surrendered, surplus weapons and ammunition.

Furthermore, RECSA wishes to re-emphasize the importance of the principle of national ownership by Member States in the through-life management of Conventional Ammunition as this is the cornerstone of sustainability in interventions implemented. National ownership thus is considered a critical factor in the successful implementation of this Global Framework.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Additionally, RECSA welcomes the need for States to designate a National Point of Contact in the implementation of this Global framework on through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. However, RECSA recommends that the designated National Point of Contact should be the same or at least in the same office for SALW, UNPoA, ATT and other related arms regulation instruments as this will promote:

synergy, coherence, effective coordination and meeting comprehensive reporting requirements in the management of Conventional Arms and Ammunition.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the issue of follow up and review and the fact that ammunition and firearms are inseparable, RECSA recommends that review conferences of the Global Framework on Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management should be tagged along with BMS meetings with extended conference days.

This approach will reduce the proposed meeting cycle period of 6-years which in the RECSA view is too long to effectively address emerging issues in the management of conventional arms and ammunition. Furthermore, it will reduce on resources incurred by Member States in attending the meetings and also ensure that outcome documents capture comprehensively recommendations on conventional arms and ammunition.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we draw nearer to the finalization of this Global Framework, let us remind ourselves of the critical need to mobilize resources to support its implementation. Majority of RECSA Member States lack adequate resources to effectively implement arms regulations instruments even though there is political goodwill.

Allow me to end my statement by re-emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of regional and sub regional organisations in playing their coordination role and spearhead the implementation of this Global Framework including other international and regional arms regulation instruments. After the adoption of the Global Framework, RECSA as a regional organization is ready to coordinate the development of a regional action plan with clear regional indicators. RECSA will also support the domestication of the global instrument at Member States level through lobbying and advocacy.

I thank you for your kind attention