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**Statement of the Small Arms Survey<sup>1</sup>**  
**Third Substantive Session**  
**Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition**  
**14 February 2023**

*(Opening section to be delivered in French; see translation below.)*

*Thank you, Mr. Chair. Distinguished members of the Open-ended Working Group and representatives of international organizations, regional organizations and civil society.*

*The Small Arms Survey, an associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement in Geneva, Switzerland, welcomes the progress made in developing a new global framework for through-life management of conventional ammunition, and we congratulate the Chair and his team for leading this process so ably.*

*Small Arms Survey research has documented the use of illicit and diverted ammunition in political assassinations, urban violence, armed insurgencies and domestic violence.<sup>2</sup> The greater availability of illicit ammunition can also foster cycles of violence whereby criminals, insurgents and terrorists threaten civilians, who then seek illicit ammunition for self-protection, contributing to increasingly fragile contexts characterised by frequent human rights abuses and disrupted livelihoods.<sup>3</sup> The elaboration of a new global framework is an ambitious and much needed effort which we all hope and expect will have real world benefits.*

*I will continue in English.*

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<sup>1</sup>An associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, accredited to this substantive session (see A/CONF.239/2022/INF/1).

<sup>2</sup>LeBrun, Emile, André Desmarais, Kheira Djouhri, and Nicolas Florquin. 2022. [Extracting Evidence: Opportunities and Obstacles in Assessing the Gendered Impacts of Diverted Ammunition](#). Geneva: Small Arms Survey, pp. 3, 9, 10.

<sup>3</sup>Sollazzo, Roberto and Matthias Nowak. 2020. [Tri-border Transit: Trafficking and Smuggling in the Burkina Faso–Côte d'Ivoire–Mali Region](#). Geneva: Small Arms Survey, pp. 14-16.

As reflected in the joint working paper on Security Sector Governance submitted by Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Small Arms Survey, we believe that ammunition through-life management is not just a technical process; it is equally important to pay attention to governance aspects. Concretely, this involves detailing the essential role played by internal oversight actors, such as officials in the chain of command and internal auditors, in ensuring that institutional rules and procedures are followed. External oversight actors, such as parliamentarians and civil society organisations, also have critical contributions to make in strategic planning, and in ensuring accountability when things go wrong, such as in cases of unplanned explosions at munitions sites, diversion and environmental contamination. Furthermore, we believe that transparency and accountability are prerequisites to developing innovative and effective solutions to gaps and challenges related to ammunition management in cooperation with civil society, academia, research institutions and industry.

Principles of security sector governance, such as transparency and participation, are also an enabler for ensuring the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes related to through-life conventional ammunition management, as well as the for ensuring that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into policies and practices. In line with our research and the [working paper we submitted with Panama and UNIDIR](#) at the last meeting of the OEWG, we are convinced that ensuring gender-responsive ammunition management increases effectiveness.

We would therefore like to applaud member states, our civil society partners and the chair's team for strengthening references to governance and to gender in the draft global framework. Thank you.

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*Traduction de la première partie en français*

Merci Monsieur le Président. Distingués membre du Groupe de travail à composition non limitée et représentantes et représentants des organisations internationales, régionales et de la société civile.

Le Small Arms Survey, un programme associé de la Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement à Genève, Suisse, salue les progrès réalisés dans l'élaboration d'un nouveau cadre mondial en matière de gestion des munitions tout au long de leur cycle de vie et nous félicitons le Président et son équipe d'avoir mené le processus avec tant d'habileté.

Les recherches du Small Arms Survey ont documenté l'utilisation de munitions illicites et détournées dans les assassinats politiques, la violence urbaine, les insurrections armées et la violence domestique.<sup>4</sup> La grande disponibilité de munitions illicites peut également nourrir les cycles de violence dans lesquels les criminels, les insurgés et les terroristes menacent les civils, qui, à leur tour cherchent des munitions illicites pour se protéger, contribuant ainsi à des contextes de plus en plus fragiles caractérisés par de fréquentes violations des droits humains et des moyens de subsistance perturbés. L'élaboration d'un nouveau cadre mondial est un effort ambitieux et indispensable qui, nous l'espérons toutes et tous, permettra des réalisations concrètes.

Je continue en anglais.

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<sup>4</sup> LeBrun, Emile, André Desmarais, Kheira Djouhri, et Nicolas Florquin. 2022. [\*Extracting Evidence: Opportunities and Obstacles in Assessing the Gendered Impacts of Diverted Ammunition\*](#). Genève: Small Arms Survey, pp. 3, 9, 10.