



PHILIPPINES

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**Open-ended Working Group to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management
Fourth Substantive Session**

**5-9 June 2023
United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 2**

General Exchange of Views

Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. Chair.

The Philippines extends its full support to the revised outcome document circulated by the Chair as we commence the 4th substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunitions. This document represents a significant step towards elaborating a new global framework that will address the existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

We commend the Chair and his team for their tireless efforts in ensuring that this document is balanced, inclusive, and mindful of the differences and similarities among member states. Their commitment to fostering an environment of dialogue and understanding has resulted in a document that truly reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of our nations.

The Philippines firmly believes in the importance of international cooperation and assistance to effectively address the challenges posed by illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons. Our commitment to this cause is evident in our national legislation, particularly the Philippine Strategic Trade Management Act, which serves as a robust framework to prevent the misuse and diversion of conventional ammunitions, as well. We thank the Chair for the revised draft and joins others in appreciating the holistic approach on conventional ammunition management applied by the Chair throughout the text.

Moreover, the Philippines takes great pride in being a gender champion in the field of international security and disarmament. We emphasize the significance of integrating gender perspectives into this political framework. Women's empowerment, participation, and gender equality must be central to our efforts towards safe, secure, and sustainable

through-life ammunition management. We therefore align ourselves to the statement delivered (to be delivered) by Costa Rica on references to gender in the draft global framework for through-life conventional ammunition management.

We highlight the vital importance of capacity building and international cooperation and assistance in meeting the priorities of the Philippines. As a developing nation, we recognize the value of support for countries with limited resources and technical capabilities. Access to knowledge, training, and technology transfer will enhance our collective capacity to manage ammunitions effectively.

In conclusion, we express our sincere gratitude to the Chair and his team for their unwavering dedication in crafting a balanced, inclusive, and cognizant document that reflects the diversity of member states. The Chair and his team's hard work and commitment have laid a solid foundation for fruitful discussions during this substantive session.

The Philippines renews its commitment to working constructively with the Chair, his team, and all member states to further refine and strengthen this political framework. Together, let us ensure that the comprehensive framework we develop supports safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional, and global levels, while building upon and complementing existing frameworks.

Thank you, Chair, for your outstanding leadership and the exceptional efforts of your team. Your dedication has been instrumental in shaping a document that holds great promise for advancing our collective goals.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.