On behalf of Mexico, we extend our congratulations on your election as Chair of this meeting. We place our trust in Costa Rica's diplomatic tradition in leading this important process. Additionally, we congratulate the rest of the bureau members and we thank High Representative Nakamitsu for her remarks.

The scourge of the diversion and trafficking of small arms and light weapons remains a shared challenge for the international community with deplorable humanitarian, social, and economic consequences.

Unfortunately, existing legally binding instruments and political commitments to prevent and eradicate diversion and trafficking will continue to be limited without the collaboration of all actors in the life cycle of weapons and ammunition.

Unquestionably, illicit and unregulated flows of arms and ammunition, including those in violation of Security Council embargoes, exacerbate conflicts and armed violence, increasing the suffering of civilian populations. Even more concerning are the increased rates of gender-based violence facilitated by the high availability of arms.

The UN Programme of Action must be strengthened and address this reality if we are to maintain its relevance in the international stage. The Fourth Review Conference represents an opportunity to advance through decisive measures, and we call for collaboration among all Member States and other stakeholders, especially industry, under a shared responsibility approach.

We reiterate that it is the responsibility of all States, but especially producing States, to strengthen existing international frameworks for effective control throughout the life cycle of arms and ammunition. Negligent practices by exporting companies, lax export controls, and the lack of marking and tracing...
only perpetuate the vicious cycles that the Programme of Action aims to address.

Mexico emphasizes the importance of expanding controls to include ammunition, understanding that ammunition is essential for the operation of small arms and light weapons. This means establishing traceability mechanisms, secure storage standards, and international transfer regulations. Likewise, this priority aligns with our country's emphasis on strengthening synergies with related instruments and mechanisms that enhance the scope of the Programme of Action. It is not about generating new mandates but identifying, with a strategic and effective approach, optimal paths for States to fulfill their respective international commitments.

It is particularly relevant that the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT-CSP9) emphasized the role of the industry, and that the Open-ended Working Group on conventional ammunition managed to agree on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. We reiterate that arms and ammunition are indivisible and call for strengthening compatibility and complementarity with these processes.

The Fourth Review Conference must build on the achievements of the three previous conferences and focus on facilitating the implementation of the Programme of Action, especially in areas where implementation is lagging, or where gaps and even new areas of opportunity have been identified.

We note that there is a growing understanding of the need for and importance of preventing small arms and light weapons from reaching unauthorized recipients, especially through diversion. Let us build upon this understanding.

We strongly support a comprehensive approach to prevent and combat both trafficking and diversion through the lifecycle. It is imperative to minimize and mitigate risks in a comprehensive manner.

In this regard, we agree on explore the best way to address supply chain security risks, but we must be clear that the complete lifecycle involves issues beyond the supply chain and begins with comprehensive diversion risk analyses throughout the entire lifecycle, including due attention to end-use and end-users.

We could engage in dialogue on diversion risk assessment criteria before transfers, to be considered as part of the final document.
Following this rationale, it will be important to consider the risk of diverted small arms and light weapons being used to commit gender-based violence, and the differentiated impacts of small arms and diverted ammunition on women, men, girls, and boys when considering diversion risks.

We also agree on discussing the enabling factors for both trafficking and diversion, specifically including demand and supply, and the controls that can be improved in both cases.

We support focusing on capacities for Member States in monitoring and managing stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, to prevent unauthorized recipients from accessing surplus of national stockpiles, which in turn exacerbate diversion risk factors.

Mexico recognizes and supports efforts made by intergovernmental, regional, and sub-regional organizations, including through regional initiatives, strategies, and action plans, to assist Member States in capacity building.

Mexico reiterates once again, and we will be doing so throughout this process, how crucial it is to involve industry and civil society in all these aspects. We echo Guatemala's statement on item 6 of the agenda.

Finally, acknowledging the need to consider the forthcoming decades of the Programme of Action, we must analyze the relationship between small arms control and development, with specific recommendations for its incorporation into post-2030 Agenda discussions.

Thank you.