Excellency,

I have the honour of writing to you in my capacity as Chair-Designate of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233, to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

I would like to express my gratitude for the trust you have bestowed in me by informally endorsing me as the Chair-Designate of the OEWG on conventional ammunition. I will make every effort to fulfill my responsibility to ensure effective preparations for the work of the Group. I would also like to underline my firm commitment to work with the Group for a successful outcome.

As informed in a note verbale from the Secretariat to Member States, dated 10 January 2022, the organizational session of the OEWG is scheduled for 7 and 8 February 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meetings of the organizational session will be held in-person in the combined Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3. Further information on logistical matters for the organizational session will be communicated by the Secretariat in due course.

In preparation of the organizational session, I would like to invite delegations to a virtual informal consultation on Friday, 28 January 2022 at 10.00am (New York time) to exchange views on the provisional agenda for the OEWG, the provisional programme of work of the first substantive session scheduled for May 2022, as well as on the organization of work of the Group. A logistical note, including connection details, is enclosed.
In advance of the informal consultation, I am pleased to convey a draft provisional agenda of the OEWG along with annotations for consideration by delegations. This agenda was developed taking into consideration the provisions in General Assembly resolution 76/233, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 72/55. Agenda items 1, 2 and 3 will be the main focus of the organizational session of the OEWG.

With regard to the organization of work, I would like to propose that the Group considers establishing a programme of work for each of its substantive sessions. I am pleased to share hereto attached for consideration a draft provisional programme of work, indicating the agenda items to be assigned to the first substantive session of the Group.

As for the substantive meetings of the OEWG, the General Assembly resolution stipulates that the Group shall convene for two 5-day sessions in New York in 2022 and for one 5-day session in Geneva in 2023. Due to the unavailability of conference rooms in the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2023 in light of its ongoing renovations, it has been suggested that the Group considers, during its organizational session, a switch in location of the 2022 session to Geneva and the 2023 session to New York.

Finally, during the upcoming informal consultation, I would also like to invite delegations to express their views on other organizational matters, including on modalities for stakeholder participation, as well as on the rules of procedure to be applied to the work of the Group.

It is my intention and hope to facilitate an effective and transparent preparatory process of the OEWG. Accordingly, I stand ready to convene additional informal consultations, as needed, to ensure agreement on organizational arrangements connected with the Group at the organizational session.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Albrecht von Wittke
Head of Division,
Conventional Arms Control and CSBM
German Federal Foreign Office

All Permanent Missions
to the United Nations
New York
Enclosures:

- Annex A – Logistical Note for virtual informal consultation on 28 January at 10.00am (New York time)
- Annex B – Draft provisional agenda
- Annex C – Draft provisional programme of work for the first substantive session