Excellency,

I have the honor of addressing you in my capacity as Chair 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 wish to inform delegations that no objections were received following my letter to Member States on 9 March 2022, placing under silence procedure a decision on the rules of procedure to govern the work of the OEWG.

I am pleased that agreement has been reached to apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2001, as contained in document A/CONF.192/16, to the work of the OEWG. Accordingly, rule 63 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations will be applied, taking into account the following understandings:

Modalities regarding the application of rule 63 concerning non-governmental organizations for the purposes of the Open-Ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233

1. All open formal sessions of the OEWG will be broadcasted through the UN Web TV.
2. Observers. NGOs with ECOSOC Consultative Status are granted an observer status in the OEWG open sessions. According to rule 63 b, other interested non-governmental organizations relevant and competent to the scope and purpose of the OEWG can submit a written accreditation request with information on the organization’s purpose, programmes and activities in areas relevant to the scope of the group. The Chair will subsequently provide Member States, through the Secretariat, with a list of relevant NGOs for consideration on a no-objection basis.

3. To achieve meaningful participation of accredited NGOs, a half-day dedicated informal meeting with NGOs will be convened during the timeframe of the first substantive session. At the discretion of the Chair, one additional informal meeting with accredited NGOs could be convened in each of the subsequent sessions of the OEWG, if needed.

4. Accredited NGOs are invited to make written contributions to be published on the OEWG website.

5. In addition, the Chair may decide to convene informal meetings with accredited NGOs during the intersessional period as needed.

   In addition, in accordance with past practice at his discretion, the Chair may wish to invite briefers on subject matters directly relevant to the mandate of the OEWG to present their views to the Group. These briefings will be conducted in an informal setting.

The decision regarding the rules of procedure will be formally adopted during the first substantive session to be convened from 23 to 27 May 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters, where the above understandings regarding the application of rule 63 and expert briefings will be read out for the formal record of the OEWG.

On the basis of this provisional adoption of the rules of procedure of the OEWG and in line with the above understandings, I will now proceed with the preparations for the first substantive session, including by sharing, in due course, a draft revised provisional programme of work for the first substantive session, that will reflect the dedicated informal meeting with NGOs.
I thank delegations for the flexibility demonstrated and look forward to continued constructive engagement in our future substantive sessions.

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

Albrecht von Wittke  
Chair  
Open-Ended Working Group on  
Conventional Ammunition

All Permanent Missions  
to the United Nations  
New York