Excellency,

I have the honor of writing to 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 again express my gratitude to all delegations for their constructive support in handling last minute challenges and their active engagement, sharing views and positions at the first substantive session of the OEWG which took place from 23 to 27 May.

Based on your valuable contributions and as announced at the last meeting of our first substantive session, and after considering a diverse set of international arrangements, I have developed the attached draft structure for the “political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance” to enable us to consider them systematically in the intersessional period and second substantive session in August.

This draft structure for the Global Framework, after a preamble, a vision and guiding principles, common understandings, shared responsibilities and a “unity of purpose” section, lays out objectives, implementation, as well as follow-up and review. Each objective contains a commitment, the rationale behind that commitment, followed by a range of actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices. To fulfil the objectives, States would draw from these actions as part of a comprehensive framework to support safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional, and global levels.
In a step-by-step approach to our substantive work, it is my intention to clarify the draft structure for the Global Framework as much as possible, before entering into a discussion on the draft elements of substance that would fill this structure. The attachment however already contains some elements of substance going beyond pure structural elements, as an illustration of what aspects could be dealt with under the corresponding headings and to allow delegations to better understand how the proposed draft structure would “work”. These elements of substance, especially those highlighted in yellow, should not become the focus of our discussion at the next virtual informal consultation.

I would like to invite delegations to the next informal consultations on 10 June 2022, 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (New York time). The objective of the meeting is to exchange views on the attached draft structure for the Global Framework. These informal consultations will be held virtually and a technical note and a link to the meeting are circulated alongside this letter.

It is my sincere hope that all Member States will consider this draft in a spirit of common purpose, flexibility and mutual understanding.

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