A Global Framework for Through-life Ammunition Management

We, the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition, meeting in New York on [XX-XX] 2023, determined to make an important contribution to safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management, recommend to the General Assembly the following set of political commitments as a new Global Framework to address existing gaps in ammunition management:

Preamble

1. This Global Framework rests on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. This Global Framework recognises the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.
3. This Global Framework promotes through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance, without prejudice to national legal systems addressing national ammunition ownership, possession, and use.
4. [Narrative text on the development of the issue... ]
5. [Narrative text on the development of the issue... ]
6. [Narrative text on the development of the issue... ]
7. This Global Framework presents a politically binding, cooperative framework. It fosters international cooperation among all relevant actors on conventional ammunition, acknowledging that no State can address the threats posed by ammunition diversion alone, and upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law.
   […]

Our vision and guiding principles

8. This Global Framework expresses our collective commitment to...

Common understanding

9. [Text presenting a common understanding of the problem and responses to it... ]

Shared responsibilities

10. [Text noting the need to address safety and security issues (with reference to impacts) and where there is a responsibility to address the problem... ]
Unity of purpose

11. This Global Framework recognises that there has been too little discernible reduction in the impact of events arising from the ineffective management of conventional management, when viewed from a global level. We must cooperate to ensure that instances of unplanned explosions diminish considerably, and that criminal and terrorist groups are increasingly denied access to diverted conventional ammunition.

12. We agree that this Global Framework is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles:

   (a) *People-centred.* The Global Framework is designed to shield societies from the twin risks arising from the accumulation of unsafe ammunition and from the diversion of ammunition to criminal and terrorist groups.

   (b) *International cooperation.* The Global Framework...

   (c) *National sovereignty.* The Global Framework recognises that it is the prerogative of each State to assess its conventional ammunition requirements in accordance with its legitimate security needs. It is also for the individual State to decide on the structure, doctrine, and equipment requirements of its military and security forces.

   (f) *Sustainable development.* The Global Framework…

   (h) *Gender-responsive.* The Global Framework…

   (i) *Whole-of-government approach.* The Global Framework recognises that sustainable through-life ammunition management requires, *inter alia,* political will and the organizational capabilities and resources of the State in question. To this effect, it is critical for States to develop ammunition management processes and organisational structures (including inter-agency structures) within their national institutions that are adequate to manage conventional ammunition.

[...]

Our cooperative framework

13. Pursuant to our mandate as contained in resolution 76/233, we lay out the following Global Framework to address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, comprising [XX] 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 [XX] objectives, we will 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.
Objectives for safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management

1. Adopt a through-life approach to conventional ammunition management, founded on safety and security risk assessment methodologies

2. Under United Nations auspices, enhance and promote existing best practice and guidance on the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition

3. Encourage ‘whole of government’ approaches to the through-life management of conventional ammunition

4. Adopt a needs-driven approach to international cooperation and assistance, tailored to national contexts and prioritising full recipient State participation

5. Prioritise sustainability by enhancing the organisational functions and capabilities of national authorities tasked with ammunition management

6. Develop record-keeping systems that allow for the through-life tracking of conventional ammunition, including data on its condition and serviceability

7. Develop or enhance national diversion risk assessment systems to anticipate and mitigate ammunition diversion risks across the life-cycle of ammunition, including pre-, during, and post-transfer

8. Deny terrorist groups access to explosives by recovering and disposing of cached, abandoned and uncleared conventional ammunition

9. Provide law enforcement and border control authorities with the appropriate capacity to collect and analyse data on diverted conventional ammunition

10. Develop mechanisms to facilitate information-sharing on conventional ammunition diversion at sub-regional, regional, and international levels

11. Consult and, where required, encourage industry to develop systems and processes to aid through-life conventional ammunition management

12. Recognise, and where appropriate reinforce, existing regional and sub-regional mechanisms that address through-life ammunition management

13. Extend the scope of existing technical guidance on through-life ammunition management to encompass diversion risk-mitigation measures

14. […]

 […]
Objectives and commitments

Objective 2: Under United Nations auspices, enhance and promote existing best practice and guidance on the safe management of conventional ammunition

Rationale

17. Applying the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines or parallel standards or guidelines adopted by States is of paramount importance to addressing the safety risks associated with conventional ammunition. Despite efforts to operationalise the Guidelines, many relevant national security institutions and national implementing bodies are unaware of their existence, often because stockpile management is not sufficiently prioritised in national decision-making. There is a need for greater outreach in the field of ammunition management. A wide range of bilateral, multilateral, and multinational initiatives, projects, and measures play a critical role in promoting the Guidelines or parallel standards or guidelines adopted by States.

Realisation

To realise this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

(a) Support the continued enhancement of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines through regular reviews by the UN SaferGuard Technical Review Board, with inputs from the Strategic Coordination Group;

(b) Support efforts to promote the use of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, including, inter alia, under the auspices of the United Nations SaferGuard programme, with the support of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team, and through bilateral, multilateral, and multinational cooperation and assistance initiatives;

(c) Reinforce emphasis in the Guidelines and other relevant documents on national capability assessments and resulting planning processes, which are the bedrock of successful through-life ammunition management initiatives; and

(d) Develop additional guidance and support on key issues related to ammunition safety, including explosive limit licensing and surveillance;

(e) XX;

(f) XX;

(g) XX;

(h) XX;

(i) XX;
Sustaining international cooperation and assistance

40. For the effective implementation of the Global Framework...

[Note: Specific elements of international cooperation and assistance (many of which are programmatic) would be integrated, thematically, under the objectives listed above. This section would deal exclusively with actions to sustain international cooperation and assistance in general and at the global level.]

Implementation mechanism

41. For the effective implementation of the Global Framework...

Follow-up and review

42. We will review the progress made at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels in implementing the Global Framework in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders...