Conventional Ammunition: - Management and Security of Stockpiles

Introduction

I bring to you greetings from ECOWAS Commission and I wish to thank the organizers for inviting ECOWAS to participate at the open – ended working group meeting on Conventional Ammunition.

Obligations of the ECOWAS Convention on Conventional Ammunition

1. Member States are obliged to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety, security and effective management of their national stocks.

2. Member States are obligated to establish effective standards and procedures for their storage facilities. These standards and procedures include but not limited to the following:

   a) appropriate site.

   b) physical security measures of storage facilities.

   c) inventory management and record keeping.

   d) staff training.

   e) security during manufacture and transportation.

   f) sanctions in case of theft or loss.

   g) SALW database to keep records of ammunition, use and misuse, permanently.

3. Furthermore, Member States are to ensure that ammunition stockpiles of states, dealers as well as individuals are securely stored in accordance with the appropriate standards and procedures as defined by the Convention.

4. Member States undertake to regularly review, in accordance with national laws and standards, the storage facilities and conditions of ammunition held by their armed and security forces and other authorized bodies in order to identify surplus, excess and obsolete stocks, for prompt disposal.

Conclusion

5. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with its Member States have a solid regime in support of standards and procedures for effective management of conventional ammunition, including in peace support operations.
6. Thus, our region is happy with the work of the Open – Ended Working Group and the current global action in addressing issues relating to conventional ammunition due to absence of norms.

Thank you for the attention !!!