



Small Arms Survey

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Statement of the Small Arms Survey¹

First Substantive Session

Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition

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Distinguished members of the Open-ended Working Group and representatives of international organizations and civil society,

The Small Arms Survey, a project of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement in Geneva, Switzerland, welcomes the establishment and convening of this body, and stands ready to support the Group to execute its mandate to explore and identify modalities for the enhanced control of national ammunition stockpiles which—along with efforts to tackle illicit manufacture, the recirculation of illicit ammunition, and the diversion of non-state holdings—will represent an important contribution to reducing illicit proliferation and its harmful, gendered impacts, in a comprehensive manner.

The Survey has been pleased to work closely with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) over the last two and a half years to provide expert research and analytic support of relevance for the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), especially in the area of the gendered dimensions of ammunition management policy and practice, and which resulted in two joint SAS-UNODA publications, [*Making Room for Improvement: Gender Dimensions of the Life-cycle Management of Ammunition*](#) (2020) and [*Gender-sensitive Ammunition Management Processes: Considerations for National Authorities*](#) (2021).

¹An associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, accredited to this substantive session (see A/CONF.239/2022/INF/1).

The Survey's work in this domain has shed light on a number of points that I would like to highlight briefly. In the area of the meaningful participation of women, better transparency from national authorities on the engagement of women in the development of ammunition policies as well as efforts to recruit, train and employ women in ammunition management work would help measure progress towards participation targets. In addition, ammunition policies, tools and guidelines should be gender-sensitive. In that vein, the Survey conducted a gender review of version 3 of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) as they were being finalized in 2021, with the result that these guidelines have been updated to ensure that references to personnel, both as persons and physical bodies, as well as any interactions called for in the IATG, are gender-sensitive.

In the area of gender analysis, the Survey's analysis of the Life-cycle Management of Ammunition (LCMA) provides numerous suggestions for entry points for gender-sensitive actions at the planning, procurement, stockpile management and disposal stages. These include ensuring that dealings with external vendors such as component suppliers, ammunition manufacturers, transporters, and other external actors are governed by principles of gender equality at the very least, and that not only the international supply at the beginning of the life-cycle, but also disposal by export take gender into consideration, as reflected for example in the ATT's risk-assessment criteria under Articles 6 and 7.

Finally, and related to this last point, gender offers an important lens to help assess the longer-term impacts of our collective work to prevent ammunition diversion from national stockpiles. This is the focus of the new Small Arms Survey Briefing Paper, released this week, ***Extracting Evidence: Opportunities and Obstacles in Assessing the Gendered Impacts of Diverted Ammunition*** for the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Among the findings of this report, it appears that many national authorities do not have the capacity to identify diverted ammunition when it is used in serious violence and crime, and this prevents a full assessment of the gendered impacts of ammunition diversion in conflict and non-conflict settings. The inclusion of ammunition information data collection guidelines and information sharing protocols between relevant national authorities (criminal justice, police, public health) would greatly enhance authorities' understanding of patterns of violence against men and women using diverted ammunition in different contexts, and the use of ammunition, diverted or otherwise, in gender-based violence. Ammunition data collection improvements would also

help authorities generate data for use in tracking progress towards SDG Goal 16.4, specifically against Indicator 16.4.2, which covers illicit ammunition.

All of these findings are in line with and corroborate the GGE's recommendations to recognize the 'full involvement of men and women' in the work of ammunition management; the need to understand more fully the gendered impacts of ammunition diversion for enhancing ammunition security; and the utility of applying a gender analysis to identify entry points for enhancements across the life-cycle of ammunition.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this intervention, and we wish the OEWG successful deliberations during this and its subsequent sessions.