Joint Statement

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, México, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Perú, Portugal, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of the Philippines, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Uruguay, the European Union, and my own country, Costa Rica.

During RevCon3 and BMS7, States agreed to progressive and constructive language addressing the connections between gender and small arms, as well as to complementarities with other agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Women, Peace and Security agendas as well as relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. During BMS8, it is important to retain and build on this progress. The outcome document should work towards further enhancing the integration of gender perspectives while ensuring the equal, full, meaningful and effective participation of women in arms control and peace and security initiatives. In addition, with the aim of ensuring that the implementation of the POA and ITI in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner that contribute to peace, security and sustainable development, it is vital that the outcome document identifies complementarities with other agendas and frameworks.

During the last 11 months since BMS 7, we have witnessed wide-ranging and complex threats to human security and the international order. Addressing the impacts of the proliferation of illicit firearms in these increasingly uncertain times calls for coordinated and holistic international responses that address the root causes of violence, including long-standing inequalities related to gender and other factors, and implements programmes and policies that have positive impacts on people’s lives.

The language on gender and complementarities in the seventh draft of the BMS outcome document is appropriately strong, and builds on the progress made at BMS7 and RevCon3. Accordingly, the undersigned States endorse the retention and further strengthening of the paragraphs summarized below (referring to version 7 of 30 June 2022 of the draft outcome document):

- References to the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in paras 9 and 53.
- References to the need to take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, including youth, as well as the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in paras 9, 35, 53, 54, 55, 57 and 83.
- References that highlight the importance of exchanging good practices on gender-responsive arms control as well as the collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender-relevant information in paras 54, 55 and 83.
- References to the link between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and sexual and gender-based violence in para 56.
- References to the Women, Peace and Security agenda in paras 53 and 65.
- References to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in paras 28, 52 and 53.