Excellency,

I have the honour 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.

In advance of the second substantive session of the OEWG on conventional ammunition, I wish to draw your attention to a few important points with regard to organizational matters and the draft elements document.

Organizational matters

The second substantive session of the OEWG will take place in-person from 15 to 19 August 2022 in Conference Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Please note that the Secretariat circulated a logistical note for this session (A/CONF.239/2022/CRP.3). All open, formal meetings will be webcasted via UN TV.

Ahead of the second substantive session, I would like to invite delegations to a virtual informal consultation which will be held on Friday 12 August 2022, 08.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. (New York time) / 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Geneva time). This consultation will provide us with the opportunity to review organizational matters and other relevant arrangements relating to the second substantive session. The consultation will be held virtually and a technical note and a link to the meeting are being circulated with this letter.

I would like to inform delegations that the provisional programme of work of the second substantive session will be issued in due course in all official languages of the UN under document symbol A/CONF.239/2022/3. A draft was circulated during the first
substantive session and it will be up for formal adoption at the beginning of our second substantive session. While I will open the floor for statements under agenda item 5 sub-items a) to e) for delegations that have not had the opportunity to speak or would like to add to their interventions during the first substantive session, our deliberations – both formal and informal - should focus on sub-item 5 f) entitled “Elaboration of a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance”. To facilitate the substantive preparations of the formal meetings under agenda sub-item 5 f), please find attached a list of guiding questions which may help guide our deliberations. Based on this, I also intend to circulate an indicative timetable ahead of the second substantive session.

In accordance with our rules of procedure, a dedicated informal meeting is scheduled in the afternoon of Wednesday 17 August for statements by international and regional organizations, followed by non-governmental organizations and civil society. This segment will be held in a hybrid format, providing the opportunity for organizations to deliver their statements remotely and in-person.

**Draft elements document**

I would like to thank delegations for their active participation at our recent virtual informal consultations and for offering views on the draft elements for the “political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance”. The draft elements as per the attachment to my letter dated 14 July 2022 will form an important basis of our work at the second substantive session and progress in the discussion of the draft elements over the course of the week would allow us to continue preparations for a Zero Draft of the Global Framework.

At this stage I wish to address the draft elements document only in informal consultation mode, preferably during the official meeting hours of the OEWG to benefit from interpretation services, once the list of speakers for the formal parts of the meeting has been exhausted. During these informal consultations, I encourage all delegations to be prepared to raise key points on the draft elements.

I also encourage delegations to submit their written inputs at their earliest convenience to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org. Please also indicate whether your inputs can be shared with other delegations. In the interest of transparency and mutual understanding, this would very much facilitate our discussion during the second substantive session.
Bilateral consultations

I will be happy to receive bilateral consultation requests. In this regard, please be informed that I will also be available for in-person meetings in Geneva on 11 and 12 August prior to the opening of the second substantive session. If you would like a bilateral meeting, please contact the Secretariat at conventionalarms-unoda@un.org.

Looking forward to seeing you in Geneva and continuing our substantive deliberations, please accept, Excellency, the renewed 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

All Permanent Missions
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Geneva