Mr. Chair,

The GGE adopted an innovative approach in recommending a modular, comprehensive framework for safe, secure and sustainable ammunition management. Such an approach can be useful and pragmatic to connect global aspirations with the regional, sub-regional and national realities and to foster concrete implementation. In Switzerland’s opinion, this interaction between the different levels has two facets.

On the one hand, we believe that the political commitments should build on regional, sub-regional and national practice. Similarly, the commitments should recognise the importance of existing frameworks at the regional and sub-regional level and encourage their further implementation or strengthening. In this same spirit, they should also provide further impetus for cooperation across regions. Such inter-regional cooperation bears much potential, for instance in relation to the exchange of good practices.

On the other hand, the political commitments could encourage regions, sub-regions and States to translate and tailor the global commitments into more detailed commitments, at their discretion and adapted to their specificities and needs. Switzerland believes that such a modular approach provides useful flexibility for effective implementation. Regarding the regional and sub-regional level, we note that it will be up to Member or participating States of regional and sub-regional organisations to determine the development of commitments, in-keeping with the legal status and mandate of these organisations.

Mr. Chair,

Switzerland supports the recommendation of the GGE that the comprehensive framework requires an effective implementation mechanism at the global level, including under the auspices of the UN SaferGuard programme. Such a mechanism will be essential in order for the political commitments to foster the operational impact on the ground that we seek collectively. In line with our previous statement on international cooperation and assistance, an effective assistance mechanism at the global level should be at the heart of implementation. In general, Switzerland prefers that existing assistance mechanisms be built upon and strengthened to that effect, and duplication and inefficiencies avoided whenever feasible.
In addition, Switzerland believes that periodic national reports on the implementation of the political commitments as well as one-off national reports dedicated to specific issues can be a relevant instrument for information exchange, stock-taking and transparency. This would also provide the basis for in-depth discussions on operational challenges and solutions among stakeholders. Switzerland sees merit in promoting such discussions at the international level. In our view, it will be important for the open-ended working group to explore how and through which modalities reporting could most effectively achieve these objectives. Importantly, it should also consider how such reporting could be aligned or combined with existing global, regional and sub-regional reporting efforts with a view to reducing the administrative burden for States.

I thank you.