

**OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION
SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION**

Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views

**Joint statement on gender mainstreaming and conventional ammunition
To be delivered by Panama**

Geneva, 15 August 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malta, México, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and my own country Panama. The statement will remain open for additional co-sponsors.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of gender perspectives as a central aspect of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament fora. Yet, the nexus between gender and ammunition management has not been adequately addressed and incorporated into conventional ammunition management debates, policies and practices.

Mainstreaming gender considerations in ammunition-related issues is not just a logical step. It contributes to the achievement of intersecting objectives contained in a wide range of international frameworks, such as the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially SDGs 5, 11 and 16; the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament; Our Common Agenda; and other conventional weapons instruments, in particular the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, UNGA resolutions 74/65 on "*Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus*", and 75/48 on "*Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control*".

Moreover, our countries emphasize the importance of promoting a safe and secure conventional ammunition management to prevent negative impacts on women, men, girls and boys such as gender-based violence and violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres.

We believe that the OEWG could benefit from continuing to address gender equality in its discussions and results. To this end, States should empower women in all their diversity, including young women, and promote their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and leadership in decision-making, implementation and oversight processes to shape the future of conventional ammunition management, and to better understand the gendered impacts of ineffective management of conventional ammunition, accidental explosions and diversion.

In this context, we welcome the inclusion of a specific objective in the draft elements document to further consider gender perspectives and implications with respect to through-life ammunition management.

At the same time, we are of the view that the document could provide additional guidance on how gender dimensions can be further conceptualized and integrated across each stage of through-life management of ammunition, particularly planning, procurement, utilization and decommissioning.

We encourage States to adopt gender-responsive conventional ammunition management policies and practices; to promote research informed by the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other characteristics; to exchange good practices and lessons learned; and to provide training and capacity-building in these areas through cooperation and assistance. States should also seek to identify and address barriers to women's full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in the development, review and oversight of such policies and practices.

We also call on States, when considering the export of ammunition, to comply with obligations, among others, to take into account any risk that it will be used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

In closing, we look forward to continuing our constructive engagement throughout this process to achieve an inclusive, effective and sustainable outcome at the OEWG by responding to the different needs and experiences of men, women, boys and girls and combatting existing gender stereotypes and inequalities. We invite member states to consult the working paper entitled 'Gender Mainstreaming Ammunition Through-Life Management', which has been submitted to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for circulation, and explores many of the issues that I have raised in more detail.

I thank you.