



# Albrecht von Wittke, Chair of the UN OEWG on Conventional Ammunition

## Input

on the UN GGE, UNGA Resolution on „*Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (PACAS)*“ and the UN OEWG



## **GGE PACAS in general**

- ▶ mandated by General Assembly resolution 72/55

## **GGE composition and sessions**

- ▶ geographically-diverse and gender-balanced
- ▶ 18 experts:  
Germany (chair), Argentina, Austria, China, France, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Montenegro, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Brazil, Switzerland, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Portugal



## Comprehensive consideration of

- ▶ unplanned explosions at munition sites  
→ **safety** aspect of conventional ammunition management
- ▶ diversion of ammunition to unauthorized recipients  
→ **security** aspect

## GGE working papers & Chair papers

→ see UNODA Meetings Place webpage

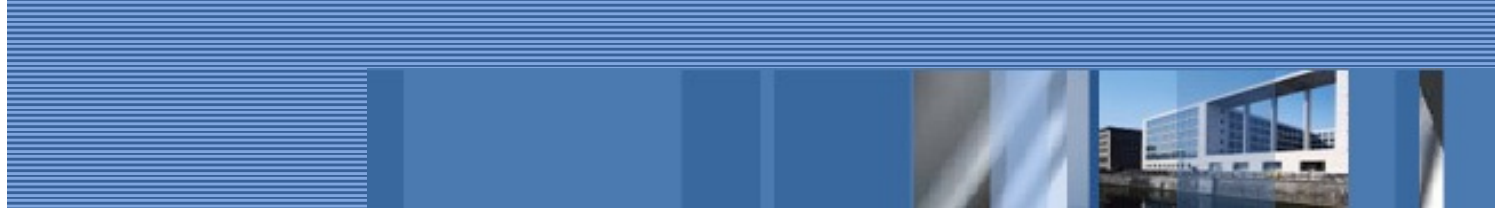
<https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/gge-ammunition-2020/>



# GGE PACAS - main substantive conclusions & recommendations

## 1) Interpretation of the Group's mandate

- ▶ comprehensive consideration of safety and security risks posed by unplanned explosions and diversion
- ▶ ineffective physical security & stockpile management continues to contribute to surplus growth & to safety and security risks (cf. predecessor GGE in 2008)
- ▶ Safety and security problems extend *beyond* national stockpile facilities. Challenges exist *throughout the life cycle* of the ammunition, from the point of manufacture until disposal or use.

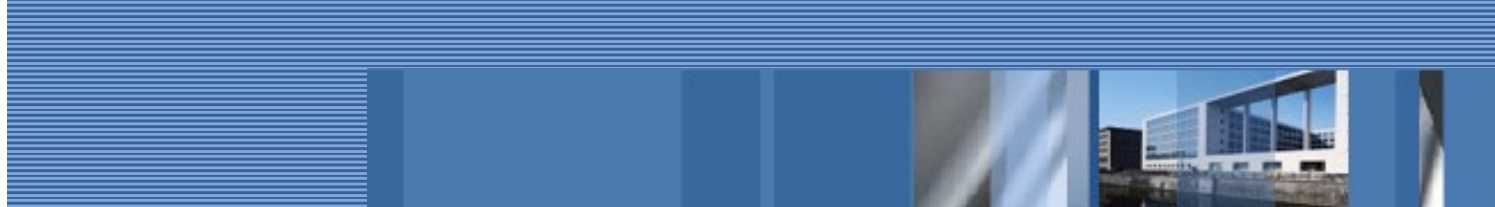


## **2) operational guidelines on supply-chain security and diversion monitoring**

- ▶ voluntary guidelines to complement existing standards, guidelines and best practices (incl. IATG)
- ▶ focus *beyond* stockpiles to address the *entirety of the ammunition supply chain* from production to use or disposal

## **3) relationship between conventional ammunition and existing frameworks and processes**

- ▶ various existing frameworks and processes that could support safe, secure & sustainable ammunition management, e.g.
  - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament
- ▶ integrate relevant ammunition management programming within sustainable development cooperation frameworks



## GGE Recommendations for a comprehensive framework on conventional ammunition (A/76/324)

	<b><u>Comprehensive Framework</u> to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life ammunition management (para. 82)</b>					
<i>Global Level</i>	<b><u>Global Framework</u></b> (set of political commitments) (para. 83): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• address both safety and security aspects of through-life ammunition management from the point of production until disposal or use (para. 85)</li> <li>• supported by implementation mechanism at the global level, <i>inter alia</i> to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ facilitate international cooperation and assistance</li> <li>○ develop <b>voluntary, operational guidelines</b> related to security aspects of the through-life management of ammunition (para. 88)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					
<i>Regional/ sub-regional level</i>	<b>Region A</b> <u>regional</u> legally binding instrument <i>or</i> tailored political commitments on a <b>voluntary</b> basis (para. 89)		<b>Region B</b> <u>regional</u> legally binding instrument <i>or</i> tailored political commitments on a <b>voluntary</b> basis (para. 89)		<b>Sub-Region Ω</b> <u>sub-regional</u> legally binding instrument <i>or</i> tailored political commitments on a <b>voluntary</b> basis (para. 89)	
<i>National level</i>	<b>State 1</b> National measures	<b>State 2</b> National measures	<b>State 3</b> National measures	<b>State 4</b> National measures	<b>State 5</b> National measures	<b>State 6</b> National measures

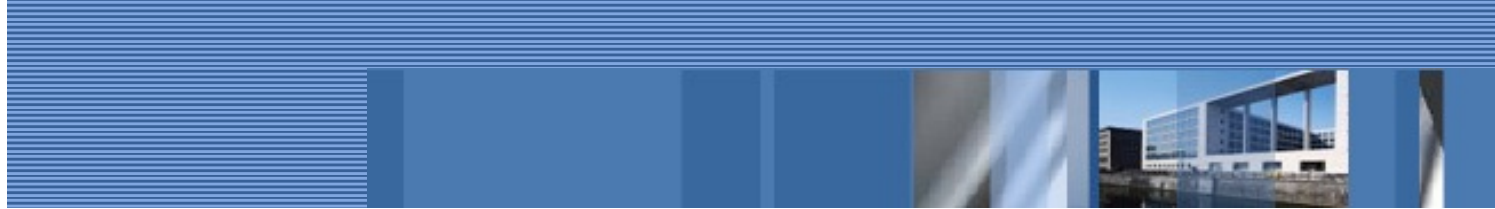


## The Resolution “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus” (A/C.1/76/L.47, 1st Committee, 76th UNGA)

- ▶ “welcomes” the GGE Report
- ▶ encourages States to consider GGE recommendations

17. *Decides* to establish an open-ended working group to elaborate 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, without prejudice to national legal systems addressing national ammunition ownership, possession and use, and will be part of a comprehensive framework to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, building upon and complementing existing frameworks, whereas cooperation at the regional and subregional levels should be considered on a voluntary basis;

18. *Also decides* that the open-ended working group shall take into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 72/55 and the views of all participating States and be informed by the series of informal consultations convened within the framework of its resolution 72/55 throughout 2018 and 2019, the informal paper presented by Germany on the informal consultative process and the inputs, both written and oral, received from Member States on the same matter:



## The Resolution – Mandate for the OEWG

- ▶ OEWG to elaborate a set of **political commitments** as a new **global framework** addressing existing **gaps in through-life ammunition management**, including international **cooperation and assistance**
- ▶ without prejudice to national legal systems addressing national ammunition ownership, possession and use
- ▶ Together with **actions** at the **national, sub-regional and regional level**, these commitments would form a **comprehensive framework** to support **safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management**.





## OEWG on conventional ammunition

- ▶ Official title  
*“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”*  
aka **OEWG on conventional ammunition**
- ▶ 15 working days for the OEWG’s work in 2022 and 2023
- ▶ provide the 78. GA with a set of political commitments



## 2022-2023 OEWG Process on Conv. Ammunition

- ▶ **Organizational Session:** 7-8 Feb 2022, N.Y.
- ▶ first **substantive session:** 23-27 May 2022, N.Y.
- ▶ further virtual informal consultations
- ▶ second **substantive session:** 15-19 Aug 2022, Geneva
- ▶ further virtual informal consultations
- ▶ third **substantive session:** 13-17 Feb 2023, N.Y.