



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2011

[on the report of the First Committee (A/66/412)]

### 66/42. Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

*The General Assembly,*

*Mindful* of contributing to the process initiated within the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

*Underlining* the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

*Taking note* of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

*Recalling* its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolutions 60/74 of 8 December 2005 and 61/72 of 6 December 2006, its resolution 63/61 of 2 December 2008, by which it welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus,<sup>3</sup> and its resolution 64/51 of 2 December 2009,

<sup>1</sup> See A/54/155.

<sup>2</sup> A/60/88 and Corr.2.

<sup>3</sup> See A/63/182.



*Taking note* of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on developing technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, which would be available for States on a voluntary basis, and on improving knowledge resource management on technical ammunition issues within the United Nations system,<sup>4</sup> and taking note also of the subsequent establishment, within the Secretariat, of the “SaferGuard” knowledge resource management programme,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, their means of destruction, if appropriate, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Takes note* of the replies submitted by Member States in response to the request of the Secretary-General for views regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition;<sup>5</sup>

6. *Continues to encourage* States to implement the recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;<sup>3</sup>

7. *Welcomes* the completion of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines<sup>6</sup> and the establishment of the “SaferGuard” knowledge resource management programme for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the full involvement of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72;<sup>3</sup>

8. *Encourages* States wishing to improve their national stockpile management capacity, prevent the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., paras. 72 and 73.

<sup>5</sup> A/61/118 and Add.1 and A/62/166 and Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> Available from [www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Ammunition/IATG/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/Ammunition/IATG/).

address wider risk mitigation to contact the “SaferGuard” programme, as well as potential national donors and regional organizations, as appropriate, with a view to developing cooperation, including, where relevant, technical expertise;

9. *Reiterates its decision* to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”.

*71st plenary meeting  
2 December 2011*