



# General Assembly

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## Open-ended working group on conventional ammunition

23–27 May and 15–19 August 2022 and 13–17 February 2023

### Draft final report

#### I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution [76/233](#), decided to establish an open-ended working group to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that would 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 would 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. The Assembly also decided that the working group should 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 Assembly further decided that the working group should convene for two 5-day sessions in New York in 2022 and for one 5-day session in Geneva in 2023, preceded by informal consultations as required, within available time frames and with the contribution of relevant international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and should hold a two-day organizational session in advance of the first meeting. The Assembly decided that the working group should submit a report on its work, including recommendations on a set of political commitments as a new global framework on conventional ammunition, to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

2. By its decision 76/568, the General Assembly decided to convene the second five-day session in 2022 in Geneva and the third five-day session in New York. This change in location was made necessary by the unavailability of conference rooms in the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2023 owing to renovation works.



## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Opening and duration of the sessions**

3. The open-ended working group held its organizational session on 7 and 8 February 2022, its first substantive session from 23 to 27 May, its second substantive session from 15 to 19 August and its third substantive session from 13 to 17 February 2023. The second substantive session was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. All other sessions were held at Headquarters in New York.

4. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided substantive support and secretariat services for the work of the working group.

### **B. Attendance**

5. Participants in the substantive sessions are listed in documents [A/CONF.239/2022/INF/3](#), [A/CONF.239/2022/INF/5](#) and [A/CONF.239/2023/INF/3](#).

### **C. Officers**

6. At its organizational session, on 7 February 2022, the working group elected Albrecht von Wittke (Germany) as Chair by acclamation.

7. At its first substantive session, on 23 May 2022, the working group elected Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica) as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

### **D. Adoption of the agenda**

8. At the organizational session, the working group adopted the agenda as contained in document [A/CONF.239/2022/1/REV.1](#) for all its sessions. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of the Chair.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Elaboration of a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management:
  - (a) Matters related to conventional ammunition safety;
  - (b) Matters related to conventional ammunition security;
  - (c) Existing global, regional and subregional processes;
  - (d) Existing international cooperation and assistance;
  - (e) Comprehensive framework to support safe, secure and sustainable through-life ammunition management at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;
  - (f) 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.

6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the final report.

## **E. Organization of work**

9. At the first meeting of each substantive session, on 23 May and 15 August 2022 and 13 February 2023, respectively, the working group agreed on its provisional programme of work as contained in documents [A/CONF.239/2022/2/REV.2](#), [A/CONF.239/2022/3](#) and [A/CONF.239/2023/1](#), respectively.

10. The working group agreed, by means of a silence procedure, on 14 March 2022, to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2001, as contained in document [A/CONF.192/16](#), to the work of the working group. A decision was formally adopted at the first meeting of the first substantive session of the working group on 23 May 2022.

11. The working group also agreed on the following modalities regarding the application of rule 63 concerning NGOs for the purposes of the working group:

(a) All open formal sessions of the working group will be broadcast through on United Nations Web TV;

(b) With regard to observers, NGOs that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are granted observer status in the open sessions of the working group. According to rule 63 (b), other interested NGOs relevant and competent to the scope and purpose of the working group can submit a written accreditation request including information on the purpose, programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the scope of the group. The Chair will subsequently provide Member States, through the Secretariat, with a list of relevant NGOs for consideration on a no-objection basis;

(c) To achieve the meaningful participation of accredited NGOs, a dedicated half-day informal meeting with NGOs will be convened during the first substantive session. At the discretion of the Chair, one additional informal meeting with accredited NGOs could be convened in each of the subsequent sessions of the working group, if needed;

(d) Accredited NGOs are invited to make written contributions to be published on the website of the working group;

(e) In addition, the Chair may decide to convene informal meetings with accredited NGOs during the intersessional period as needed;

(f) In addition, in accordance with past practice at his discretion, the Chair may wish to invite briefers on subject matters directly relevant to the mandate of the working group to present their views to the group. These briefings will be conducted in an informal setting.

12. The approved list of NGOs is contained in document [A/CONF.239/2022/INF/1](#).

## **F. Documentation**

13. All official documents, working papers and other documents before the working group can be found at the following dedicated webpage: <https://meetings.unoda.org/node/62086>.

## **G. Proceedings of the working group**

14. At its first substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3, 4, 5 (a–e) and 6 at its nine plenary meetings.

15. At its second substantive session, the working group considered agenda item 3, 4, 5 (a–f) and 6 at its nine plenary meetings.

16. At its third substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3, 4, 5 (f), 6 and 7.

17. In accordance with the agreed modalities for stakeholder participation, one dedicated informal meeting was convened, in a hybrid format, for statements by international and regional organizations, followed by NGOs and civil society, at each substantive session, on 25 May and 17 August 2022 and 14 February 2023, respectively.

18. On 17 May and 11 August 2022 and 2 February 2023, the Chair convened informal meetings with international and regional organizations and accredited NGOs.

## **III. Recommendations**

19. In accordance with its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution [76/233](#), the open-ended working group devoted 28 meetings 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. The working group agreed to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption, at its seventy-eighth session, of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management annexed to the present report. The Global Framework contains a set of political commitments for strengthening and promoting existing initiatives on, and addressing existing gaps in, through-life conventional ammunition management.

## **IV. Adoption of the final report**

20. At its third substantive session, on 17 February 2023, the open-ended working group considered agenda item 7, entitled “Adoption of the final report”, and adopted its draft report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session as contained in document A/CONF.239/2023/L.1 and authorized the Chair to finalize the report.

## **Annex**

### **A Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management**

[To be inserted]

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