Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition

Consultative Meeting, 16 - 17 November 2015, Geneva

Annotated programme of work

Monday, 16 November 2015

9:30 – 10:00

Opening: Consultative Meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition

*Moderation and welcome remarks by Sabrina DALLAFIOR, Minister, Deputy Head of the Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland*

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Urs SCHMID, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament

Introductory Remarks by Brigadier General Peter WANNER, Chief International Relations Defence, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of Switzerland

10:00 – 11:30

Panel 1: Setting the scene

*Moderation: Ambassador Stefano TOSCANO, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)*

*Panellists:*

- Mr. Eric Berman, Managing Director, Small Arms Survey
- Mr. Samuel Paunila, Advisor, Ammunition Technical Operations, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Mr. Richard Boulter, Chief, Weapons & Ammunition Section, UNMAS

Panel 1 intends to set the scene and initiate our work towards identifying if and what the international community could/should do in order to reduce the negative impact of improper management of conventional ammunition, taking into account the relevance of the issue for both international and human security.

The first panellist will elaborate on the human, humanitarian, socio-economic and political impact of the lack of proper ammunition management. The second and third panellists will focus on the main causes leading to explosions of ammunition depots and to the proliferation of ammunition into criminal and other non-state actors’ hands.

In the course of the identification of these causes, the question will be raised whether these are due to a lack of implementation of existing norms or due to the lack of effective and targeted norms. This will provide a first indicator of what the international community could focus on, when addressing the impact of inadequate ammunition management.

11:30 – 13:30 (Lunch break)
13:30 – 15:30

Panel 2: Mapping the regional and international landscape

Moderation: Ambassador Pedro Motta Pinto COELHO, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament

Panellists:
- Ms. Gillian Goh, Political Affairs Officer, UN ODA New York
- Colonel Jim Burke, Irish Defence Forces
- Mr. Diman Dimov, Project Manager, OSCE
- Mr. Callixtus Joseph, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS
- Mr. Philippe Koré, Specialist PSSM, National Commission on SALW in Côte d’Ivoire

Panel 2 seeks to provide delegations with an overview of the existing international and regional frameworks addressing the safe and secure management of ammunition. Panellists will address the following questions:

a. What instruments have been developed within your specific organisation to address the issue of safe and secure management of ammunition?
b. What is the nature and scope of the instruments developed within your organisation?
c. What were the factors that led and enabled your organisation to develop such instruments? And what were the factors that limited the nature or scope of these instruments?
d. What field activities are being conducted using the instruments developed within your organisation?
e. What are the current results achieved through the implementation of the instruments developed within your organisation?
f. What other types of instruments would be needed at the level of your organisation to improve the safe and secure management of ammunition?

In the course of the discussion, delegations are encouraged to present other instruments from the floor and to provide their thoughts concerning possible (additional) instruments that would need to be developed by the international community to improve the safe and secure management of ammunition.

15:30 – 16:00 (Coffee break)

16:00 – 18:00

Panel 3: Desired end-state with regard to life-cycle management of conventional ammunition

Moderation: Colonel Prasenjit CHAUDHURI, Head of the Swiss Verification Unit, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of Switzerland

Panellists:
- Colonel Martin Trachsler, Special Advisor on Weapons and Ammunition Disposal to COM EUFOR
- Colonel GS Wolfram Albrecht Knabe, Chief Global Arms and Proliferation Control Division, Bundeswehr Verification Center (BwVC)
- Mr. David Towndrow, Ammunition Support Branch, NATO Supply Agency (NSPA),
- Mr. Steven Costner, Deputy Director Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, US Department of State

Panel 3 aims at sharing an understanding on how ammunition can be managed to ensure safety and security. Ammunition life-cycle management and its components will be presented as a comprehensive approach to safe and secure management of ammunition.

Panellists will present how life-cycle management can be considered in cooperation projects to ensure long-term viability of international assistance. Panellists will address the following questions:
a. What project does your government support that endeavoured to introduce a life-cycle management perspective?
b. What is the nature of these projects and how are they related to existing regional and international instruments?
c. What were the entry points for international cooperation?
d. How did the project team ensure that life-cycle-management was continuously maintained on the agenda and as a desired end-state of the project?
e. What kind of additional instruments would enable international cooperation to be more efficient in establishing life-cycle management procedures?

The open discussion will provide room for delegations to clarify aspects related to life-cycle management and international cooperation. The organisers would especially appreciate delegations to express their perspective concerning the life-cycle management approach, and whether and how international efforts should be undertaken to anchor the concept in an existing or additional instrument.

Tuesday, 17 November 2015
8:45 – 10:45
PANEL 4: Case studies
Moderation: Ambassador Pedro Afonso COMISSÁRIO, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva
Panellists:
- Major-General Senad Mašović, Deputy Chief of Defence of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brigadier-General Diabaté Kani Coulibaly, Malian National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms
- Colonel Prasenjit Chaudhuri, Head of the Swiss Verification Unit, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport of Switzerland
- Mr. Arben Braha, National Director, Albanian Mine & Munitions Coordination Office

Panel 4 focuses on the implementation of projects under existing frameworks and international cooperation practices. Panellists will present three case studies from different perspectives. They will present their perspective on how life-cycle management procedures can best be implemented and what sort of international instruments are needed to ensure sustainable results. Depending on the role of the speakers their presentations will focus on some of the following questions:

a. What are the life-cycle management challenges country X is confronted with?
b. How are these challenges addressed through international cooperation?
c. Under what international framework is the international cooperation project being conducted?
d. Is the way country X endeavours to address life-cycle management influenced by this international framework? If so, how?
e. What kind of additional instruments at the international, regional or multilateral level should be developed to more efficiently provide/receive international assistance to establish life-cycle management procedures?

10:45 – 11:15 (Coffee break)

11:15 – 13:00
Panel 4 (continued)
Moderator: Ambassador Emmanuel IMOHE, Head of the Presidential Committee on Small Arms, Nigeria
Panellists:
- Dr. Andrea Gruber, Subject Matter Expert SALW/CA, Military Policy Division, Ministry of National Defence and Sport, Austria
- Mr. Bruno Donat, Chief UNMAS Office Geneva
Mr. Himayu Shiotani, Project Manager and Researcher, UNIDIR
Mr. Christopher Loughran, Director of Policy and Evaluation, Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

In Panel 4 (continued) operators will present their perspective on how life-cycle management procedures can best be implemented and what sort of international instruments are needed to ensure sustainable results.

Operators will provide an overview on how they engage and where their engagement is enabled or limited by the existing international frameworks. In their presentations they will focus on:

a. What kind of activities does your organisation conduct to enable states to safely and securely manage the life-cycle of their ammunition?
b. Under what international framework are those activities conducted?
c. In how far is the international framework either enabling or limiting your activities?
d. What kind of additional instruments at the international, regional or multilateral level should be developed to more efficiently provide international assistance to establish life-cycle management procedures?

Delegations are encouraged to engage in the discussion on where the international, regional and/or multilateral framework is in need for further development. It is especially relevant to point at specific gaps, drawn from implementation experience, which need to be addressed. Delegations are also encouraged to comment on possible options to fill identified gaps.

13:00 – 14:15 (Lunch break)

14:15 – 15:45
Panel 5: Next steps
Moderation: Ambassador Urs SCHMID, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament
Panellists: (Moderators of previous panels)

In panel 5 we will endeavour to develop a common understanding of the challenges, issues and possible ways ahead. Delegations are encouraged to actively contribute to this crucial session and to make their views known. Delegations may wish to consider the following questions for the debate:

a. Is there a common understanding that there is a challenge related to stockpiles of conventional ammunition?
b. Is there a common understanding that there are gaps in the existing international framework?
c. Is there a common understanding that these gaps need to be filled? If so, is there a common understanding that a multilateral process could contribute to fill these gaps?
d. How could existing processes be leveraged to reduce or close the identified gaps?
e. Is there a need beyond the existing processes to develop new instruments to fill the gaps?
f. If an additional process is needed, what is the best way to launch such a process?

15:45-16:00 (Short break)

16:00 – 16:30
Closing: Consultative Meeting on Safe and Secure Management of Conventional Ammunition
Conclusion of Panel 5 and contextualisation by Ambassador Urs SCHMID, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament

Closing remarks and way ahead by Sabrina DALLAFIOR, Minister, Deputy Head of the Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland