



**small  
arms  
survey**

**Small Arms Survey**

Maison de la Paix 2E  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2  
CP 1672 - 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

t +41 22 908 5777 f +41 22 732 2738

e [sas@smallarmssurvey.org](mailto:sas@smallarmssurvey.org) w [www.smallarmssurvey.org](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org)

**Global Framework for Through-life Conventional  
Ammunition Management  
Preparatory Meeting of States  
23-27 June 2025**

Dear Mr Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to share some remarks on behalf of the Small Arms Survey, an associated programme of the *Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement* in Geneva, Switzerland.

Having been involved in the Open-Ended Working Group on Ammunition, the Small Arms Survey has been helping to promote the GFA through the UNODA regional informal outreach meetings, and to ensure its effective implementation by engaging with the UN SaferGuard Technical Review Board and the recent MSAG Symposium in Basel

The Small Arms Survey's work on ammunition management includes research, policy support and training. From our experience, we see the following as key topics for this, and future GFA meetings.

1. **Sharing technical expertise in data collection and standardisation.** The Survey has developed effective methods in collecting, systematizing and analysing detailed data on ammunition holdings, unplanned explosions, seizures, and recoveries.<sup>i</sup> Bringing in technical experts in data and analysis to share their knowledge, and support national and regional actors, through the GFA would strengthen efforts to draw on data to prevent diversion, in line with Objective 13.
2. **Encouraging data sharing on Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites (UEMS).** Our UEMS database has identified 674 incidents since 1979, with over 31,000 casualties.<sup>ii</sup> Our factsheet<sup>iii</sup> shows that in nearly a third of cases, the cause was unknown. Having insights on the causes, however, allows us to determine which GFA objectives to prioritise to prevent future accidents.
3. **Promoting ammunition marking, record-keeping, profiling, and tracing.** Our infographic,<sup>iv</sup> developed with Conflict Armament Research shows how analyzing seized ammunition markings supports the implementation of the GFA, and especially objectives 11 to 13 on security, and can uncover illicit flows and support diversion investigations. You can learn more at today's side event, "Tracing the Untraceable", held in CR 5.
4. **Supporting coherence between the GFA, and regional and national implementation frameworks.** National institutions manage weapons and ammunition holistically, and many regional frameworks cover both weapons and ammunition. Alongside MAG, we'll present perspectives on this topic from the Caribbean and West Africa at a side event entitled "Building on Experience", starting shortly in CR11.
5. **Promoting the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in all GFA-related activities.** The Small Arms Survey, UNODA and UNIDIR are implementing the WoMA+ Initiative, which has brought members of the Women Managing Ammunition Network to share their technical expertise at this meeting. Our working paper, co-sponsored with UNIDIR, provides insights on ensuring women's meaningful participation in future GFA efforts.<sup>v</sup>

The Small Arms Survey remains committed to supporting the Chair, Member States, and partners in implementing the GFA and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Small Arms Survey. n.d. Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites database. Available at <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/database/unplanned-explosions-munitions-sites-uems>; Yarina, Yulia. 2025. 'The Bullet Trail: A Year of Ammunition Seizures in the Caribbean and What They Mean for Public Health.' Medium, Small Arms Survey. 19 June. Available at <https://smallarmssurvey.medium.com/the-bullet-trail-a-year-of-ammunition-seizures-in-the-caribbean-and-what-they-mean-for-public-2a81bfafd0d3>

<sup>ii</sup> Small Arms Survey. 2025. Quick facts on unplanned explosions at munitions sites (UEMS) – January 2025 update. Available at: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/resource/quick-facts-unplanned-explosions-munitions-sites-uems-january-2025-update>

<sup>iii</sup> Fabre, Anne-Séverine and Callum Watson. 2025. 'Linking the Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites Database to the Global Framework on Ammunition.' Factsheet. Available at: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/highlight/new-factsheet-links-between-unplanned-explosions-munitions-sites-database-and-global>

<sup>iv</sup> Small Arms Survey and Conflict Armament Research. 2025. Regional profiles of illicit small-calibre ammunition (2015-2021). Available at: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/resource/regional-profiles-illicit-small-calibre-ammunition-2015-2021>

<sup>v</sup> Small Arms Survey and UNIDIR. 2025. 'Ensuring women's full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in ammunition through-life management.' Working Paper submitted to the Preparatory Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. Co-sponsored by Canada, Costa Rica and Germany. Available at: <https://meetings.unoda.org/gfa-prepmos/global-framework-for-through-life-conventional-ammunition-management-preparatory-meeting-of-states-2025>