STATEMENT BY MS BERENICE LOW, SECOND SECRETARY (POLITICAL), REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE DURING THE GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION, 23 MAY 2022

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Colleagues,

1. Singapore expresses our appreciation to Mr Albrecht von Wittke, Chair of this Open-ended Working Group on Ammunition Management (OEWG), for his work in steering the preparatory process. We wish Mr Von Wittke a speedy recovery and hope to see him in-person in New York soon. We would also like to thank Ambassador Maritza Chan of Costa Rica for volunteering to serve as Vice-Chair at short notice to ensure that the OEWG could proceed as planned.

2. The safe, secure, and sustainable management of ammunition is an important issue that Singapore takes very seriously. Singapore adheres closely to various international and regional guidelines on ammunition safety, including the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) managed by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. The IATG continues to play a paramount role in addressing the safety risks associated with conventional ammunition. We encourage Member States that have not done so to adopt these guidelines in the application of through-life ammunition safety measures.

3. Singapore believes that it is important for this OEWG to build on the work done by the 2020 Group of Governmental Experts on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus...
(GGE). Singapore had the honour of serving as a member of the GGE and contributing to its discussions. We fully support the outcomes of the GGE. This includes the proposed establishment of a comprehensive framework to (a) prevent both unplanned ammunition explosions and the diversion of ammunition; and (b) enhance safe, secure, and sustainable through-life ammunition management at the international, regional, sub-regional, and national levels.

4. Ammunition security receives far less coverage in international, regional, and sub-regional frameworks as compared to ammunition safety. In this regard, we hope that the establishment of the comprehensive framework would help to address the current security gaps of through-life ammunition management, amongst other efforts.

Madam Chair,

5. To conclude, you can be assured of Singapore’s continued commitment to the OEWG’s work and to working closely with other Member States to addressing existing gaps in and to enhance ammunition management.

Thank you.