

# GHANA



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STATEMENT BY

**MR. DANIEL OKAITEYE**  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UN

AT THE  
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

New York, October 20, 2017

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to speak on the cluster related to Conventional Weapons. Ghana associates herself with statements delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The acquisition of conventional weapons are essential for the protection, defence, security and safety of citizens of a country. However, Ghana remains concerned over the widespread security implications and the devastating humanitarian and socio-economic consequences posed by conventional weapons and their excessive accumulation, proliferation, illicit transfer and circulation. Indeed, the tremendous human suffering, including high annual death toll, destroyed communities, forced migrations and property loss, particularly caused by the proliferation and abuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition cannot be underestimated.

In our view, the nexus between the supply of SALW to non-state actors and the pervasive armed conflicts as well as gun violence around the world, requires urgent attention. We, therefore, appeal to arms producing countries to ensure that the supply of SALW is limited to only governments and duly authorized entities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ghana attaches great importance to further strengthening our national capacity and implementation of obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We believe the ATT, which we ratified in 2015, is critical to the enhancement of security and promotion of accountability, responsibility and transparency in international arms transfers. In this context, we welcome the successful convening of the Third Conference of State Parties (CSP3) to the ATT held in Geneva in September 2017, and encourage all member states that are yet to subscribe to the Treaty, including the major arms producing countries, to ratify and promote its effective implementation and universalization.

Ghana also remains fully committed to the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), which are essential for the control and regulation of arms flows, prevent their diversion into the illicit market, and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of related offences. These instruments are also vital to the promotion of security and the creation of conditions that are necessary for sustainable development, particularly in Africa. We, therefore, add our voice to the

clarion call for a balanced and effective implementation of the UNPoA at national, regional and international levels.

Ghana welcomes the consensus outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspect held in New York in June 2016. The need for financial and technical assistance to developing countries to improve their capacity to address new and emerging SALW manufacturing, technology and their implications for the full and effective implementation of the UNPoA and ITI cannot be overemphasized. In this regard, we look forward to the 2018 Third Review Conference of States (RevCon3), as an opportunity to build on outcomes from the BMS6, strengthen the UNPoA, discuss international aid and cooperation and advance the ITI.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The real value of SALW is, arguably, the availability of ammunition. In this context, Ghana, like many ECOWAS member states, believes ammunition management and control is vital to moving the world closer and faster to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 16.4, which calls for a significant reduction on illicit SALW trafficking by 2030. It is, therefore, imperative that RevCon3 pay particular attention to the issue.

Moreover, other issues such as the gender dimension in the discourse on Conventional weapons, particularly the role of women in combating SALW cannot be overstated and deserve equal attention in RevCon3 as envisaged under Security Council resolution 2422 (2015). The world should also no longer ignore the issue of survivors of gun violence, and Ghana believes it is time to bring it to the fore and discuss it at RevCon3.

We would like to appreciate the critical role and contribution of Civil Society Groups (CSG) in the SALW process and reiterate our call for increased technical and financial assistance to enable them to continue their work.

**In conclusion,** Mr. Chairman, we underscore the critical importance of the universalization of and adherence to the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the various protocols and conventions on SALW amid the resource constraints and overstretched capacities to implement them. It, therefore, behoves on all member states to demonstrate good faith and political will to ensure a world without illicit arms flows.

I thank you for your kind attention.