

# GHANA



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**73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTER-COUNSELLOR  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE**

**THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK  
MONDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018**

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to speak Conventional Weapons under the cluster. We associate ourselves with statements delivered by Indonesia and Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group respectively, and wish to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chair,**

Ghana is committed to good practices, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures that have been developed within the context of the UNPoA, ITI, Firearms Protocol, ATT and other regional instruments to prevent illicit transfer, diversion, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of conventional weapons.

We remain concerned over the escalating human suffering, global death toll, destruction to communities, forced migration, and armed violence and attacks caused by the proliferation of conventional weapons in certain parts of the world, especially in Africa.

As we struggle to deal with the devastating effects of these weapons in conflict and non-conflict settings, the disarmament and arms control regime remains imperiled at the regional, national and local levels. It is critical, therefore, to enhance our international response to the illicit flows of conventional weapons to effectively address the armed conflicts and their negative impact on civilian populations.

In this context, we reaffirm our support for the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, which is intended to save lives from the venom of these conventional weapons. We welcome the fact that the tenets of the SG's agenda promote the SDGs and are also in tandem with the flagship initiative of the African Union under the agenda 2063 to silence the guns and end all wars in Africa by 2020. It is vital that efforts towards achieving the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 are mutually reinforcing and link disarmament to development.

**Mr. Chair,**

We believe that appropriate management and regulation of international trade on conventional weapons is vital to promoting regional and international peace and security as envisaged by the ATT. In this context, we welcome the successful conclusion of CSP4 of the ATT in Tokyo this year, which is enhancing discussion on issues of international cooperation and assistance, and measures to prevent illicit arms transfer as well as systematic information exchange among states. We look forward to fruitful consultations during CSP5 in August 2019 in Geneva, and also urge states that are yet to subscribe to

the Treaty to do so in order to achieve universalization and promote its effective implementation.

It is equally important to underscore that addressing the illicit flows of SALW and their ammunition is key to reducing protracted armed conflicts and violent attacks in Africa. For this reason, we welcome the successful conclusion of revcon3 of the UNPoA, including the consensus adoption of an outcome document, which for the first time, includes provisions that recognize the necessity of dealing with SALW ammunition. It is our hope that further efforts would be made to delineate the issue of conventional ammunition management and regulation of its trade within proper context. We, therefore, welcome the ongoing regional consultations by Germany to harness the priorities of States on the subject ahead of a possible GGE in 2020.

We also take note of other positive outcomes in the revcon3 UNPoA, including references to gender-based violence, gender equality in participation in disarmament processes and sustainable development.

**Mr. Chair,**

Ghana also shares the view that curbing the use of EWIPA within the framework of international humanitarian law would save lives, alleviate the suffering of innocent civilian populations during war, facilitate post-conflict recovery and reduce the level of environmental contamination by unexploded ordinance. We welcome the Maputo Communiqué on the issue in 2017 by 19 African States, including Ghana. We similarly welcome the SG's call on the international community to develop a political declaration on the matter and further encourage other international initiatives for the protection of civilians and civilian objects in armed conflict in compliance with international law.

**In conclusion,** Mr. Chair, 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.

It is our hope that all member states, particularly arm-producing states would demonstrate good faith and political will through support for resource constrained countries to effectively implement these conventions and protocols and ensure a world without illicit arms flows and diversion.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**