



# CZECH REPUBLIC

**Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations**

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**First Committee, Thematic Debate – Conventional Weapons**

Statement by

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Chair,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. We once again condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian aggression against Ukraine which represents an unjustifiable breach of the UN Charter and international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

Chair,

The Czech Republic, as a member of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Management Committee, continues to support the process of universalization and full implementation of the ATT. We regret that some of the important arms producers have not yet joined the ATT. Our common goal should be to achieve greater responsibility and transparency in the international arms trade. We highly value the outcome of the Eight Conference of the States Parties held in Geneva in August this year. The conference was well attended, including by many international organizations and numerous other relevant stakeholders. The Czech Republic welcomes the discussions on “post-shipment controls” and “post-delivery coordination” as effective means of diversion control. With reference to the reporting and information exchange, we are of the view that they should not bring about additional burden beyond the obligations stemming directly from the ATT and, at the same time, they should be mutually reinforcing with the reporting to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. Taking due note of the alarming financial situation of the ATT, we appeal to all its States Parties to fulfil their financial obligations in full and on time. To support national implementation, we remain ready to further contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund.

The Czech Republic reiterates its support for the goals of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Czech Republic has so far accorded its assistance to mine action for instance in Afghanistan, Jordan, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Ukraine. We recognize good progress achieved there.

The anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions cause immense suffering, presently aggravated in the ongoing war waged by Russia against Ukraine. We call on the international community to redouble its efforts in the areas of victim assistance, risk education, stockpile destruction of mines, explosive remnants of war and cluster munitions clearance in the conflict areas, including those currently posing danger on the territory of Ukraine.

The Czech Republic stands firmly by the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW). International endeavours must continue to address the humanitarian impact of conventional weapons and ammunitions. We thus appreciate all efforts to promote the universalisation of the Convention. It is also important to maintain the Convention responsive to new technological advances. We therefore welcome further work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). In our view, it is indispensable for the CCW High Contracting Parties to have sufficient guidance on how to ensure that any new weapon, means or methods of warfare are in compliance with the International Humanitarian Law, which should under any circumstances remain our primary objective. We therefore highly value the

“Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas” adopted in June this year. This is a real proof that despite the unfavourable milieu at the moment, States are in a position and willing to develop a political declaration to enhance the protection of civilians in populated areas during conflict and reduce humanitarian harm from explosive weapons with wide area effects.

Chair,

Many people around the globe suffer each year from the effects of the illicit trafficking in firearms. The Czech Republic believes that strong regulations covering conventional weapons including small arms and light weapons, their ammunition, parts and components, should be supported. The Czech Republic has developed an effective system of export control of arms as well as dual-use goods and continues to enhance its mechanisms of control and prevention of diversion in accordance with international standards. Our country fully meets its international commitments in the field of arms control and remains adherent to compliance policy. The Czech Republic welcomes outcomes of the UN Programme of Action on SALW including the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), requiring states to ensure that weapons are properly marked and their records kept. We are supportive of recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on arms brokering and we closely follow the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/233 to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework addressing existing gaps in through-life ammunition management, including international cooperation and assistance.

Thank you, Chair.