PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE ACCUMULATION OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION IN SURPLUS

The presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunitions in excess, explosive material devices in surplus and/or awaiting for destruction pose security risk for many countries.

Accidental explosions can adversely affect local populations and environment, and a serious threat exists of illicit trafficking and uncontrolled spread, especially to terrorists and other criminal groups.

Some regional organisations have adopted measures for cooperation on this specific issue.

These measures:

- aim at giving an assistance mechanism for destroying and securing stockpiles of conventional ammunitions in excess;
- are implemented on a transparent and voluntary basis through a voluntary exchange of information;
- are complementary to other mechanisms of assistance in the field of co-operation and are not intended to duplicate already existing international tools or initiatives in this area;
- cover a broad categories of ammunitions and explosive devices.

Six months after its adoption, 4 countries have requested assistance from the OSCE Member States for the destruction or the securing of millions tones of ammunitions, mines or missiles.

Regional efforts deployed so far have shown potential to effectively address the problem posed by stockpiles of conventional ammunition in surplus. The contribution made by regional and sub-regional organisations through co-operation measures deserves consideration by the UN General Assembly.

The main objective of introducing this issue on the First Committee agenda is to raise awareness among the international community of a problem which poses security and environmental risks at regional and sub-regional levels.