Mr. Chairman,

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to make complementary comments in its national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Effective cooperation and willingness to reach consensus are, more than ever, the way forward. The role of the UN and the existing rules-based multilateral system should be, and needs to be, strengthened.

As the initial implementation plan for the Disarmament Agenda was launched, we respond positively to the SG’s call for action. We particularly welcomed the initiative to establish a Multi-partner Trust Fund within the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) dedicated to SALW control projects.
Mr. Chairman,

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are the more widespread instruments of violence and death. Its illicit traffic causes tremendous human suffering and fuels organized crime, terrorism and regional instability. We welcome the Outcome Document adopted in June at the UNPoA RevCon, stressing the importance of the PoA for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and recognizing the gender dimension. Portugal strongly advocates the inclusion of gender aspects in all SALW-control projects, as part of the broader effort to promote women participation in disarmament affairs. We are also convinced that the inclusion of ammunition in the scope of the PoA will significantly increase its implementation.

My country is contributing to several EU initiatives and programmes to address the illicit traffic of SALW, including the European programme EMPACT and the iTrace initiative.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has the potential to be a very effective instrument against the illicit trade of conventional arms and ammunition, especially to regions in conflict and to countries with high levels of armed violence. The Treaty will also contribute to Human Rights protection and to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to particularly highlight the need for implementation of the ATT provisions on gender-based violence. Portugal urges all States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is an example of success. Despite the remarkable progress already achieved, we are still far from attaining the objective of an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025. Portugal calls upon every State to support and promote the universalization and implementation of the Convention and the Maputo Action Plan.
Mr. Chairman,

On the 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the \textbf{Cluster Munitions Convention}, it is with great concern that we face the possible use of those weapons by state and non-state actors. It deserves our strongest condemnation. The same applies to the indiscriminate use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED’s), particularly in densely populated areas.

Portugal also supports the universalization and strengthening of the \textbf{Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)}.

Mr. Chairman,

On \textbf{new and emerging threats}, such as armed drones and lethal autonomous weapons systems, we should reaffirm that international law also applies to those weapons and that future weapons systems must remain under human control. We underline that all States share the responsibility to ensure that their weapons systems comply with international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

To conclude,

The International Community should redouble its efforts to make progress in conventional disarmament and arms control and have a real impact in some of the most vulnerable societies, helping to prevent conflicts and saving lives.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.