Mr. Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union. I will make some additional remarks in a national capacity.

The widespread circulation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons continues to fuel conflict and bloodshed. Germany is particularly concerned about the implementation gap between multilaterally agreed guidance, and practices on the ground. We need to close this implementation gap and make sure that vital provisions as set out in the UN Programme of Action are finally put into practice.

We are convinced that one way to achieve this is via comprehensive and well-coordinated regional processes relying on clear implementation deadlines and agreed key performance indicators. Together with France and in close cooperation with UNDP/SEESAC and the six states of the Western Balkans, Germany has initiated a regional roadmap, which aims at accomplishing comprehensive control of Small Arms and Light Weapons by 2024.
The illicit circulation of conventional ammunition is inextricably linked to these challenges. As the lead-sponsor of Resolution 72/55 “Problems arising from conventional ammunition in surplus” Germany has conducted open informal consultations with all UN-member states. Excellent substance and expertise has been collected in order to prepare the work of the Group of Governmental Experts which is scheduled to commence in 2020.

The CCW’s work on LAWS has been constructive this year. For the first time, the GGE recommends to High Contracting Parties to take action: to endorse, in November of this year, the eleven guiding principles agreed upon by the GGE. These principles will, thus, fulfil an important guiding function. Germany looks forward to taking discussions forward in this GGE in a results-oriented way to ensure progress towards strong normative and operational frameworks for the RevCon 2020.

Weapons systems capable of delivering massive explosive force into urban areas can have grave humanitarian consequences. Germany is firmly committed to identifying effective recipes for saving civilian lives in these situations. A possible solution is developing and sharing of military good practices aimed at minimizing the humanitarian impact of combat action.

The increased availability and use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) bears the risk that their misuse could fuel conflict or facilitate terrorism. Germany therefore sees merit in deepening the conversation on the responsible export of armed UAVs. We feel confident that a series of working papers by the UNIDIR, which Germany has been privileged to support, provides a substantial contribution to this debate.