74TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY

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DURING THE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2019
Mr. Chairman,
I thank you for giving me the floor. In addition to the statements delivered on this cluster by the NAM and the African Group, my delegation wishes to further make the following remarks in our national capacity:

1. Ghana is deeply concerned about the escalating human suffering, death toll and gendered impacts of illicit proliferation of conventional weapons in communities around the world, especially in Africa, hence our commitment to enhancing the implementation of the relevant regional and international instruments and treaties.

2. We reiterate, in this regard, the continued importance of the UNPoA and its ITI; the ATT; the Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Convention; the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in global efforts to prevent illicit acquisition, proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons. The universalization of and adherence to these treaties and instruments will be necessary for the maintenance of global peace and security.

3. We further underline the correlation between peace, security, disarmament and sustainable development and urge support for the SG’s disarmament Agenda with priority on “disarmament that saves lives”. We note, in this regard, the links between the Agenda and AU’s flagship initiative to silence the guns and end all wars in Africa by 2020 and beyond.

4. In addressing the scourge of illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, we strongly advocate a holistic approach throughout the life cycle with a view to ensuring safe, secure and accountable management of conventional ammunition and to preventing the diversion of stockpiles to unauthorized users.

5. In this context, we welcome the outcome document of the third review conference of the UNPoA, which for the first time recognizes the necessity of addressing ammunition and the disproportionate gendered impacts of SALW. We expect the upcoming BMS7 of the UNPoA in 2020 to provide the needed platform to assess genuine progress in the implementation of the outcomes of revcon3. We must make more effort to delineate the issue of conventional
ammunition management and regulation of its trade within the proper context, particularly during the 2020 GGE process established by resolution 72/55.

6. The outcome of the CSP5 of the ATT held in August 2019 in Geneva is a welcome step towards implementing effective national control systems for the transfer of conventional arms, and for addressing illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. We also reaffirm the importance of international cooperation and assistance towards the ATT implementation and encourage States that are yet to subscribe to the Treaty to do so in order to achieve its universalization.

7. Ghana endorses the joint statement delivered by Ireland on the issue of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), and reiterates the Secretary-General's call for a political declaration on the protection of civilians and civilian objects in armed conflict in compliance with international humanitarian law.

8. In conclusion, we urge the international community to show necessary political will to address the threat posed by illicit accumulation and proliferation of conventional weapons in a proactive and decisive manner.

9. I thank you for your kind attention.