FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL

Delivered by Mr. José Amaral
Minister Counsellor

Permanent Representation of Portugal to the United Nations

New York, 24 of October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

Portugal firmly believes in effective multilateral cooperation, with the UN at its core, based on internationally agreed rules.

We particularly welcome the SG’s Disarmament Agenda, which prioritizes the Disarmament that Saves Lives.

Mr. Chairman,

Fighting the illegal traffic of conventional arms and ammunitions, in particular of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is essential. We support the UNPOA on SALW and look forward to cooperate with the Chair-Designate of Kenya for the BMS7 in 2020.
We also welcome the convening in 2020 of the GGE on *Problems Arising from the Accumulation of Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles in Surplus*.

The recent Fifth Conference of States Parties of the ATT, under the relevant theme of “Gender and Gender based Violence”, contributed to enhancing the treaty’s implementation and universalization efforts. Portugal encourages all States to ratify the treaty.

The **Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention** is an example of success. Our expectation is that the forthcoming Fourth Review Conference in Oslo will contribute significantly to achieve the goal of an anti-personnel mine free world by 2025.

On the **Cluster Munitions Convention**, it is with great concern that we face the possible use of those weapons by state and non-state actors. The same applies to the indiscriminate use of IED’s, particularly in densely populated areas.

We support the universalization and strengthening of the **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**.

Portugal also welcomes the outcome of the 2019 session of the **GGE LAWS**.

To conclude,

It is our collective responsibility to make progress in conventional disarmament and arms control, helping to prevent conflicts and achieve a safer world.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.