Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Conventional weapons are legitimate and essential means for States to ensure their self-defence and national sovereignty. However, uncontrolled flows of these weapons and their ammunition has profoundly destabilizing effects and their diversion to illicit markets and to non-state actors fuels conflict and violent crime worldwide. It is our collective responsibility to face those challenges, including through the implementation of the goals set by the UN Secretary General Agenda for Disarmament in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil remains committed to the full implementation and to strengthening the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UN-PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

We therefore welcome the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference of the UN-PoA last year, and we note with particular satisfaction that its outcome document recognizes the importance of efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit flows of ammunition. Brazil has been at the forefront of efforts in this field, including through pioneering legislation and industry practices on the marking and tracing of ammunition, and we look forward to continuing to exchange experiences and fostering international cooperation in this regard.

Brazil is therefore encouraged that the GGE on conventional ammunition established by resolution 72/55 is due to be convened in 2020. We thank Germany for conducting an intensive consultation process to prepare the work of the Group. We hope that the GGE will contribute to developing a comprehensive approach on the entire life-cycle of ammunition, aiming in
particular at preventing its diversion for illicit uses, while fully respecting the rights of States to acquire and maintain ammunition stocks for self-defense needs.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil has always been a staunch supporter of the Anti-personnel Landmine Convention, which we ratified in 1997. The Brazilian Armed Forces have been engaged in cooperation in mine action for the past two decades, particularly in Central and South America and Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

The regulation, restriction and proscription of certain conventional weapons are also important tools to alleviate human suffering and mitigate humanitarian harm in situations of conflict. The CCW plays a central role in this regard, with its wide membership and flexible legal framework. Brazil is Party to all its protocols to the CCW and actively participates in the deliberations therein, including on the emergence of new threats and challenges to the implementation of International Humanitarian Law, including in the recent discussions on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

These systems are intrinsically problematic, posing profound ethical, legal and political challenges. Given the exponential technological advances in the fields of robotic weapon systems, miniaturization and artificial intelligence, the historical window for adopting appropriate legal and operational framework to regulate the issue is narrowing very quickly.

Although the final report of the recently concluded GGE on LAWS in the CCW has fallen short of our expectations for a clear mandate for the negotiation of a legally-binding agreement on the issue, we hope that future discussions on a possible regulatory framework might bring us closer to a substantive consensus in this regard. This includes the establishment of meaningful human control in the interface between humans and machines, as well as the improvement of international law, including international humanitarian law (IHL), on the matter.

Mr. Chair,

In a context of increasing urbanization of armed conflict, the threat posed by the direct and indirect impacts of the unrestricted use of explosive weapons in populated areas has also come to the forefront of humanitarian concerns. Brazil associates itself fully with the statement delivered by Ireland on this issue, and we stress the obligation to comply fully with International Humanitarian Law at all times and in every circumstance.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.