



Statement of Tech 4 Tracing

Open-ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition Second Substantive Session 17 August 2022

Distinguished members of the Open-ended Working Group and representatives of regional and international organizations and civil society,

Tech 4 Tracing (T4T) is a partnership between new technology and arms control professionals whose objective is to incubate, test, and help deploy new technologies for enhanced arms and ammunition control in advancement of international agreements, protocols and treaties, and in support of national authorities, law enforcement, human rights investigations and peacekeepers.

T4T welcomes the progress that this Open-ended Working Group has made toward its mandate to address gaps in through-life management of conventional ammunition held by States. We believe that this process will help make conventional ammunition management and control safer and more secure, and contribute to reductions in the harmful impacts on uniformed personnel and civilians of unplanned explosions and ammunition diversion.

As part of this process, we urge member states to keep abreast of developments in the applications of new technologies that T4T believes will lead to significant enhancements in arms and ammunition control modalities for national authorities. These technologies are advancing rapidly, and include applications that employ computer vision, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Within the next 30 days, for example, **the first algorithm for computer vision-aided detection of munition items will be publicly released**, which will allow for the automated identification of certain munitions both in images and videos, as well as in real time, in contexts of ongoing conflicts. The release of this detector, whose development T4T has supported, will be a watershed, and usher in a new era of arms control opportunities.

These developments are taking place outside what forums such this may understand to be 'industry'. It is new tech professionals working hand in hand with arms control experts who are developing, testing and readying these tools for deployment. While the immediate use cases for these tools will focus on illicit arms

identification and human rights and humanitarian law investigations, the tech behind them will have enormous application for stockpile and supply chain management. So, when it comes to the eventual draft political framework on conventional ammunition, we strongly urge the inclusion language making reference not only to contributions from industry but also from **new technology experts**.

Finally, Tech 4 Tracing believes that equitable access to new tools, technology, and expertise for enhancing arms controls is essential. The new tools are coming, and they should be deployable in places where they are most needed, which means the most affected states. Bridging the so-called 'digital divide' will be one focus of Tech 4 Tracing's **New Tech for Arms Control (NTAC) Forum**, envisioned to include technology professionals, national authority representatives, and arms control experts. We invite Member States to join with us in a robust discussion that will help modernize our collective efforts and bring arms and ammunition control into the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chris Gough
Technical Director
Tech 4 Tracing
chris.gough@tech4tracing.org

Tech 4 Tracing
100 N. Howard St. STE R
Spokane, WA 99201
www.tech4tracing.org
contact@tech4tracing.org