

**United Nations General Assembly
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First Committee**

*Presentation by Mr. François Rivasseau, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament*

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(only the French text is official)

**Presentation of the Franco-German resolution on the accumulation of conventional
ammunition stockpiles in surplus**

- 1) The question of excess ammunition stockpiles plays an underestimated role in the issue of post conflict areas. It can also have an influence on the start of new conflicts in these same areas because surplus ammunition, the securisation of which bears a net cost for States, can be diverted from military stockpiles into zones of instability where it fuels conflicts and violence.
- 2) The project is inspired by what was realized with documents and subsequent funding mechanisms adopted in various regional frameworks. It is aimed at giving this approach a universal dimension. What we want to insist on here is the national responsibility that States have to determine the amount of their excess stockpiles and if external assistance is needed to eliminate associated risks. This has a few concrete implications :
 - The first one is that this text is not about promoting any form of intrusiveness in internal security affairs of States, it is up to them and them only to determine what is excessive in their stockpiles.
 - The second one is that, as a matter of consequence, it is up to states to make the first move in acting upon this problem, in raising awareness amongst the security personnel and in determining the appropriate level of stockpiles that they wish to maintain.
 - Lastly, it is clear that we are not aiming at defining in any restrictive way the notion of « conventional ammunition ». We wish to promote a broad minded approach that will enable us to enjoy maximum flexibility in the action we will undertake. Nothing would justify that we be restrictive in the implementation in such a voluntary and cooperative mechanism.
- 3) Regarding the method, what we want to promote here are pragmatic, voluntary approaches. We are of the opinion that, on the one hand, voluntary assessments and, on the other hand, international assistance and involvement of international institutions should be linked.
- 4) We also want to impact, on the longer trends, on the illicit trade in ammunition.
- 5) We have organized an open ended meeting that has encouraged us because we heard interesting improvement suggestions but no delegation did, either in this meeting or in bilateral

contacts, raise any major difficulties. We've tried to take into account as much as possible the remarks that were made, this is why the tabled text is a slightly amended version of the distributed text. We will continue to work with all delegations who wish to do so on the content of this resolution, which is being co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Mali, Moldova, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey.