Input of Mexico to the process derived from UNGA resolution 72/55 on “Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus”

- Mexico re-affirms the importance of multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations to address the different challenges related to conventional weapons (including SALW) and ammunition.

- Mexico welcomes all political and technical deliberations/consultations regarding ammunition, highlighting the need for joint action in the framework of the United Nations.

- Addressing the issue of ammunition is indivisible from conventional weapons (especially SALW), requiring an integrated and comprehensive approach.

- While Mexico considers it important that the UN addresses the adequate management of ammunition stockpiles in surplus, the only effective approach to tackle the problems arising from ammunition is examining their complete life-cycle:
  - Supply side controls.
  - Actions to prevent diversion to unauthorized end-uses/end-users.
  - Stockpile management and monitoring.

- A life-cycle approach also entails the recognition of a shared responsibility across the entire chain of supply-transfer-use/stockpile and the diversity of actors involved. A segmented or partial understanding of the chain will hinder substantial progress in the problem at hand.

- The production and supply of ammunition demands adequate attention as the obvious starting point of responsible transfers. Excessive production leads to increased loss of control for producers, exporters, brokers, and importers alike. Regulation and proper control could be more effective when considering the number of manufacturers of ammunition.

- While export control systems generally have provisions for SALW and larger weapon systems, further strengthening is required to incorporate ammunition. States bear the primary responsibility in ensuring that transfers have met the highest standards regarding risk assessments,
prohibitions, mitigation of diversion risks, retransfer clauses, and end-use/end-user verifications, among others.

- Mexico identifies marking, tracing, and tracking of ammunition as key elements towards ensuring that transfers happen as they were intended by the exporter and importer, as well as preventing diversion and trafficking, and ultimately favoring accountability. This issue is especially relevant in aiding law-enforcement to reduce crime-related impunity and to better understand supply flows and diversion tendencies. Technological innovations and solutions have made it possible to continuously reduce costs and physical burdens for marking and tracking.

- Transport security and chain of custody must also be given suitable attention, as the risk of diversion, theft and trafficking is increased upon the physical movement of ammunition between different actors. Strengthening border cooperation and related mechanisms are fundamental in ensuring this.

- Adequate accounting, monitoring, and handling of ammunition increases the possibility of avoiding accidental explosions and minimizes the risk of diversion and theft.

- Therefore, Mexico considers that the management and physical security of stockpiles deserves a comprehensive approach well beyond the issue of surplus stockpiles.

- International cooperation and assistance continues to be paramount in aiding Member States to address deficiencies in their capacities across the entire life-cycle as outlined previously. Mexico supports the development of tools at the UN, regional organizations, and mechanisms.

- International cooperation can further be channeled to assist Member States in meeting technical challenges that can derive from marking, tracing, and tracking of ammunition.

- Mexico especially favors promoting synergies and complementarities between existing instruments, including those of sub-regional, regional and global applicability. Regional instruments and processes, such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean (e.g. OAS, CIFTA), have already shown important signs of progress on the matter.

- Complementary efforts regarding the illicit flows of SALW and ammunition also have a particular bearing on the fulfillment on SDG 16.4.
• The inclusion of a reference to ammunition in the final document of the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) is a significant step forward. Mexico is convinced that an update of the PoA should clearly take this dimension into account.

• Mexico will continue to promote the universalization and strengthening of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as it includes a dedicated article for ammunition. Achieving wider support for the ATT and ensuring compliance with its provisions will certainly aid in responsible transfers of ammunition on par with that of SALW.

• The universalization of legally binding instruments, such as the ATT, strengthens the control of ammunition.

• Best practices and available guidelines from export control arrangements can also serve as a basis to strengthen national, regional and international practice in effectively controlling ammunition.

• In its recommendations, the GGE to be convened by the Secretary-General in 2020 must take into account all aspects related to ammunition in a comprehensive manner, including the complete life-cycle of ammunition and its implications on illicit activities.