Mr. Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union.

Please allow me to make some additional remarks for Germany in a national capacity.

We are proud to see our partnership with the African Union on SALW-control prosper, with a special focus on the Sahel, both on a technical as well as on a policy level. As you will recall Germany launched a G7+ initiative co-chaired by the African Union on SALW Physical Stockpile Management (PSSM) during our G7 Presidency in 2015. We are currently broadening this initiative to include also measures against trans-border illicit trafficking of SALW to support the AU to implement its strategy “Silencing the guns by 2020“. We supported these actions, with about 14 million Euros in the past two years.

Motivated by the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 16.4, Germany is actively promoting a Global Alliance against SALW proliferation. We feel that better coordination is crucial for progress, so we try to partner with other interested states, regional bodies, the UN, as well as non-governmental organizations and research institutions.
Besides small arms and light weapons we also need to acknowledge that diversion of conventional ammunition is a driver for armed conflicts. Every two years we review the newest developments related to “Problems arising from conventional ammunition in surplus”. Almost ten years after the last Group of Governmental Experts on this topic, which led to the formulation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs), we call upon States to support our proposal to convene a new GGE on ammunition in 2020.

In our proposal we also suggest an in depth consultation phase taking stock of all States’ concerns and priorities for action in the field of ammunition.

Furthermore, Germany remains committed to promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Germany encourages eligible States to make best use of the Voluntary Trust Fund, and encourages all States parties in a position to do so to contribute to this invaluable instrument.

Mr. Chair,

The CCW’s work on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) has been extremely useful over the past years.

In order to further contribute to an informed debate of the GGE we established the independent Scientific International Panel on the Regulation of Autonomous Weapons (IPRAW).

We invite parties to a second briefing on the Panel’s work on 25th October to the German House.

In populated areas explosive weapons have huge humanitarian consequences. To discuss the legal, technical, military and humanitarian aspects of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, short EWIPA, we organized an event in Geneva together with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We feel that the right framework for further discussion on this topic is the CCW. That is why we suggested including the topic on the agenda of this year’s meeting of High Contracting Parties. As a first step we have tabled two working papers on this issue.

Germany has held the presidency of the convention on cluster munition for the last year until September. We have handed it over to Nicaragua.

As President of the convention we focused on two initiatives with the potential to promote the implementation of the convention. One focused on a country-specific strategy, the other one on the dialog with non-states parties of the
convention. Through both initiatives we aim to further increase the humanitarian purview of the convention.

To reflect the progress achieved, Germany tabled the CCM-resolution this year and will hold a CCM side event on 26th October in the German House.

Thank you Mr. Chair.