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<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AMMUNITION STOCKPILES</b>
<b>Disarmament focus:</b>	<b>Small Arms</b>
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<b>Proposed timeframe:</b>	<b>July 2009 – May 2011</b> <b>(A multi-year project to be executed in phases)</b>
<b>Geographical focus:</b>	<b>Global</b>

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## **BACKGROUND**

The problems arising from the accumulation of conventional arms ammunition stockpiles in surplus are of growing concern to the international community. Significantly, conventional arms ammunition stockpiles that are poorly managed pose an excessive risk because they can become unstable and threaten public safety with explosion or contamination. Unsecured and poorly managed stockpiles also allow the diversion of ammunition to illicit use, which can increase fatalities arising from civil wars, insurgencies, terrorism, crime and other armed violence.

The 2008 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the subject, recognized that States with sub-optimal national stockpile management systems have often little technical guidance on how to improve those systems, and recommended in its report that “Technical guidelines for the stockpile management of conventional arms ammunition, which would be available for States to use on a voluntary basis, should be developed within the United Nations to assist States in improving their national stockpile management capacity, preventing the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and addressing wider risk mitigation”.

It is expected that once the GGE recommendations are endorsed by the General Assembly at its 63<sup>rd</sup> session, UNODA will be called upon to coordinate the development of such guidelines, in cooperation with other relevant UN partners, Member States and technical experts on ammunition and stockpile management.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Technical guidelines would be developed in order to assist States in the implementation of adequate stockpile management systems. These guidelines would be sequenced to allow States gradually to attain a series of progressively more comprehensive stockpile management systems, which aim to prioritize and address the most serious safety and security risks first. The guidelines would also be a useful tool in aid of those providing international assistance in stockpile management, as it would provide a set of “global” standards that could be adapted to different national contexts. Furthermore, the guidelines would provide guidance on stockpile management for those involved in the implementation of peacekeeping operations and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes.

## **CONTENT AND DESIGN**

The guidelines would be developed in a suite of volumes, which would be sequenced to provide, in a gradual manner, increasingly comprehensive technical guidance on ammunition stockpile management. The guidelines would recognize that many States have sub-standard stockpile management and that it would not, therefore, be possible to institute the highest management standards immediately. The first volume would contain step-by-step guidelines for improvements on a wide range of issues, from national legislation, to operational procedures, based on the first principles ammunition management. Subsequent volumes would address the exact thematic areas, but would aim to institute progressively higher stockpile management standards.

Implementing the guidelines should therefore be a gradual and realistic process, and one that is based on installing through legislation and operational practice the “first principles” of safe and secure ammunition management. The guidelines should also cover risk management and planning for the potential impact on vulnerable areas and facilities outside the perimeter of the ammunition depot, should there be an explosive event within the depot.

Stages for the development of each volume of the guidelines would include a meeting of a group of experts, with expertise in a variety of fields, to provide advice on the project, including providing general guidance to the project, reviewing and commenting on drafts, and proposing methodologies and courses of action. The team’s composition would reflect the need for the guidelines to address ‘political’ aspect of ammunition management as well as purely technical concerns. It would also take into account the need to ensure geographical balance among the experts. In addition, a core of group of experts would be entrusted with the task of conducting research and drafting the guidelines.

A concept note will be developed to provide further details of the content and design of the project.

## **IMPACT**

The development of these guidelines would provide States that currently do not have in place adequate systems for the management of conventional ammunition stockpiles a progressive tool to help them develop and implement such a system. Proper stockpile management results in less accumulation of surpluses and lower risk of explosions and of diversion of ammunition into the illicit trade. In the long-term, economic benefits might accrue from reduced occurrence of explosions, better planning of national ammunition requirements, and improved stability and security.

## **BENEFICIARIES**

The development of these guidelines would, in the first instance, be of greatest benefit to States that currently do not have in place adequate stockpile management systems. Civilian populations will benefit from the lower risk of explosions and leakages. As illicit ammunition can easily travel across borders, States also stand to benefit from the introduction of proper stockpile management in neighbouring States.

## **PARTNERS**

This project requires senior expertise from several fields, including expertise in existing best practices. Expertise would range from ammunition technical officers to programme managers of existing stockpile management initiatives. The project would rely heavily on a core group of recognized experts in ammunition and stockpile management, on expertise provided by interested Member States and intergovernmental and civil society organizations with the required expertise. Within the United Nations system, a partnership would be formed to bring support the project, including UNODA, UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

## **TIMEFRAME**

It is envisaged that this project would be implemented in various phases, with each phase culminating in the production of a volume of the guidelines. The total duration of the project would be at least 3 years. The first volume should be expected to be finalized in December 2009.

## **BUDGET**

The cost estimates provided below are preliminary and based on information available to date. They include provisions for: the equivalent of 24 work-months of consultancy services at the senior level, for the drafting of the guidelines; publication costs, including all aspects of editing, translation and printing and distribution costs; operations and implementation costs, including possible travel of consultants and members of the advisory board for meetings to review the draft (these travel costs are kept at a minimum as most of the review would be done via electronic mail); and programme support costs. These cost estimates may be revised in light of new information which may become available following consultations with relevant partners.

BUDGET ITEMS	IN US\$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Personnel (Project manager and Consultants: approx. 22 work-months)</li></ul>	416,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication costs (including editing and translation into Arabic, French and Spanish)</li></ul>	61,600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operations and Implementation Costs</li></ul>	184,200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Programme support cost</li></ul>	86,200
<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED</b>	<b>748,400</b>

<b><i>TOTAL SECURED FUNDING</i></b>	<b><i>292,300</i></b>
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<b>FUNDING GAP</b>	<b><u>456,100</u></b>
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[Link to full disarmament e-portfolio](#)