Q: How does Canada manage the safe handling, storage and transport of AN and AN-based fertilizers through existing legal instruments and regulations? In addition, how do Canadian authorities ensure that frontline workers are trained about these?

Thank you, Ms. Chair, and thank you for the Organizing Committee

Following the Beirut explosion in 2020 and in light of the quantity of ammonium nitrate produced and stored in Canada every year[1] Canada conducted a review on the current regulatory landscape and best practices, both domestic and international, pertaining to different activities involving AN, such as storage, handling, and transportation.

Our review revealed that the Canadian regulatory framework related to AN is a shared responsibility between all levels of government.

At the national Level, storage, handling, and transport (by all modes) of AN are subject to a framework that is shared between the Department of Transport, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health, and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Whereas, land planning and zoning, building structure, construction design, fire prevention requirement and environment protection are enforced by provinces, territories, and municipalities.

Overall, the Canadian framework is robust and is supported by industry's comprehensive codes of practices and international best practices.

Even though this framework is robust, our review identified opportunities to further enhance the current landscape pertaining to AN based fertilizer such as:

1- clarify some regulatory provisions related to storage and transport of this product
2- ensure AN storage requirements are uniform across the country and are based on the latest edition of Model Codes, and finally
3- assist regulated entities while navigating several sets of regulations and laws outlined at all levels of government to identify and comply with applicable storage requirements.

As such, Canada will consider modernizing its regulations, where feasible, continue to examine AN regulations, and collaborate in international initiatives.

With regards to the second part of your question "how do Canadian authorities ensure that frontline workers are trained about these?"

In Canada, there is a collaborative approach between all levels of government to ensure that frontline workers as well as first responders are adequately trained to perform their tasks in a safe and secure environment.

For instance, at the national level, the Department of Transport requires all persons who handles or transports dangerous goods including ammonium nitrate to be adequately trained and hold a training certificate.

In addition, Canada is currently implementing a Competency Based Training and Assessment framework for all workers handling dangerous goods in transport.

On the aspect of occupational health and safety, the Department of Health coordinates the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) which is closely aligned with the GHS. Though WHIMS, provincial, territorial, and federal occupational health and safety laws and regulations set out the workplace requirements for hazardous products, including worker education and training.

Lastly, the industry Codes of Practice cover the full scope of fertilizer safety and security including training and emergency response procedures. For example, Fertilizer Canada (an industry association representing Canadian manufacturers,

[1] Canada is the fifth largest producer of ammonium nitrate in the world of more than 650,000 tons/year

wholesalers, and retailers) has been successful with developing and delivering First Responder Awareness Training on fertilizer safety and security within Canada's first responder community.

To conclude, even though no significant issues were identified for the Canadian context, Canada recognizes that this is a complex and cross-cutting issue and there are always opportunities for improvement to promote compliance and ensure public safety.