Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania
H.E. Mr Ferit Hoxha
at the
Special event to mark the opening for signature of the
Arms Trade Treaty
New York, 3 June 2013

Madam the High Representative,

I am very pleased to stand here, in this historic day after having signed the Arms Trade Treaty on behalf of the Republic of Albania.

I am honored to express today my satisfaction for formally committing my country to a Treaty that, we think and hope, will contribute to make the world a safer place; will establish global standards for the regulation of the international arms trade while recognizing the legitimate rights and interests of states in this regard; a Treaty that will help prevent that arm are diverted into illicit market, that they fall in the wrong hands, those of human rights abusers and international law violators. We truly hope that this common commitment will greatly help reduce human suffering everywhere in the world.

It took several years of intense negotiations to finally come to the adoption of Arms Trade Treaty; It is therefore a good opportunity to reiterate today our appreciation for all those who engaged themselves, worked hard and spared no effort in negotiating a meaningful text for the benefit of the whole world. Our special thanks go to Ambassador Moritan of Argentina and Ambassador Woolcott of Australia for their leadership and tireless efforts throughout the ATT negotiating process.

A special and well-deserved recognition goes to the very active role of the civil society, of the numerous NGO-s and associations, which have closely followed the negotiating process. They proved once more how valuable the civil society contribution can be, feeding into an intergovernmental process. We trust they
will continue to remain engaged and give their contribution during the implementation phase as well.

The international community owed this Treaty to the countless men, women and children who suffered from the consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade of arms and to their families; We owe this treaty to the victims of small arms circulating due to lack of proper regulations; We owe this Treaty to all those who wish to live in a safer and more prosperous world and have a future free from the threat of guns.

Aware of all the negative consequences of the violence caused by the uncontrolled circulation of the arms and weapons, Albania has been a supporter of a strong and robust ATT during the whole negotiation process. We did so conscious that the world desperately needs a Treaty that would establish the highest possible international standards in the arms trade that will help prevent and eradicate the illicit trade of weapons and prevent them from falling in the wrong hands and cause instability and human suffering.

This ceremony marks the beginning of a very important phase of the ATT. Now we must join forces to work for a fast entry into force of the Treaty and to carry out with its effective implementation. The presence today of such a large number of delegations supporting the ATT speaks loud and clear for the overwhelming interest and determination to bring the Treaty to life as soon as possible. Albania is committed to give its best contribution in this regard.

While the appropriate measures for the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty will be up to each individual State Party, I would like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation on identifying the best ways and measures on the effective application of this Treaty. In this regard, a process of cooperation and mutual support among countries, especially at the regional and sub-regional level, is of utmost importance. Facing similar problems, countries of different regions can work together in finding the best ways to tackle the challenges of the implementation of the Treaty.

Finally, the international support and assistance of State Parties, national and regional organizations and NGO-s and other bodies with expertise in the relevant areas, is of key importance for a successful implementation process of the Treaty.

Thank you.