Signing ceremony for the Arms Trade Treaty

3 June 2013 in New York

Remarks by H.E. Carsten Staur
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark

Dear excellences and distinguished delegates,

I would like to begin by thanking the secretariat and UNODA for organising this event. Also sincere thanks also to Ambassador Woolcott and his team as well as Ambassador Moritan for the essential role they have played in the ATT process.

2 April 2013 the General Assembly made history by adopting the Arms Trade Treaty. We adopted an effective treaty that will make a real and positive difference for millions of people around the world.

The Treaty is a result of brave diplomacy. It represents a balanced result with concessions and hard fought compromises from all sides, including the major arms exporters and importers. This bodes well for the universalization of the Treaty and the large number of states signing the ATT today clearly demonstrates a collective will to tackle the devastating effects of irresponsible and unregulated international trade in arms. While the ATT will contribute to solving a series of challenges, an issue that remains to be addressed is the international transportation of arms.

Today is indeed a time to celebrate, but this is not the time to rest on our laurels. We now have to turn words into deeds. The adoption was a significant step.
We are here today in this newly renovated historic room to take the next step towards making the Treaty matter on the ground. I am therefore truly pleased to sign the ATT on behalf of Denmark.

Effective implementation will require the introduction of national legislation and the establishment of efficient arms trade control mechanisms. Here international cooperation and assistance will be important. To this end Denmark has allocated 1.6 million dollars to assist developing countries with administrative capacity building to meet their obligations under the treaty.

I am also pleased to note that the Wassenaar Arrangement – under Danish chairmanship of the plenary – issued a statement welcoming the ATT and expressed readiness to share expertise and experiences on conducting effective export controls.

We are determined to continuing to work with all stakeholders towards the rapid entry-into-force of the treaty and its effective implementation and universalization.

We will certainly continue do our part in this important endeavour.

I thank you.