STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. ANTÓNIO GUMENDE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

AT THE

CEREMONY OF SIGNING OF ARMS TRADE TREATY

NEW YORK, 03 JUNE 2013
Madam High Representative,

First of all, allow me to express, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Mozambique, our warmest congratulations for your appointment to preside over the proceedings of this historical ceremony.

I also congratulate H.E. Ambassador Peter Woolcott for his outstanding chairmanship of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty which resulted in the successful conclusion of the treaty we are signing today. We commend him for the transparent, skilful way he conducted the negotiations that enabled the UN membership to overcome obstacles and sensitivities during the different stages of the Conference.

I would also like to acknowledge and register the support of the United Nations Secretary- General throughout the process that led to the conclusion of this Treaty.

Madam Chair,

The negotiation process leading to this treaty has always been viewed by the Government of Mozambique as reflecting one of the aspirations of humankind, bearing in mind the inescapable realization that an irresponsible and unregulated arms trade bears terrible consequences for the civilian populations throughout the world, particularly in Africa.

The position of Mozambique in this process has always been inspired on our experience and also on the common position of the African Union of March 2013, which among other issues recommended the adoption of a strong and robust scope
for the treaty to regulate the trade and transfer of conventional arms and ammunition.

Madam Chair,

This august gathering is aware that history has seen the African continent suffering from the blight of prolonged armed conflicts and organised crime fuelled and perpetuated by uncontrolled access to and sale of weapons.

The poorly regulated international legal trade in conventional arms, and particularly small arms and light weapons and ammunition, continues to seriously affect the economic, social and political stability of African States and elsewhere in the world and it is in spirit that we place our hopes on this important instrument.

In this regard, we strongly hope for a speedy ratification and full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty which will contribute to the reduction of the proliferation of weapons that exacerbate insecurity and armed violence and will make a real difference in the lives of millions of people who suffer the consequences across the world.

I would like to conclude my remarks by reiterating the commitment of the Government of Mozambique to this process and we look forward all United Nations Member States to sign and ratify this Arms Trade Treaty.

I thank you.