Statement by Md. Faruk Hossain, Counsellor, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN at the Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons of the 69th Session of the First Committee on 21 October 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement made earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to make the following points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty, Bangladesh considers its forthcoming entry into force in December this year a very welcome development. The consequences of unregulated global trade in conventional arms have been horrific and devastating for many societies, killing and maiming millions of innocent civilians. We hope that the treaty would bring more accountability and transparency in global arms trade and thereby reduce the negatives consequences of illegal trade in conventional arms and the resultant human sufferings.

3. Although the ATT is coming into force sooner than many had expected, a number of major arms producing, exporting and importing states are yet to sign or ratify the treaty. The challenge before the international community would therefore be to seek to enhance the universality of the treaty. The sooner the big players in arms trade embrace the treaty, the greater would be the treaty’s expected achievement in reducing the sufferings by making it more difficult for human rights abusers, governments transferring arms for illicit use, arms traffickers and armed groups to obtain weapons and ammunition.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We stress the full, balanced and effective implementation of the outcome documents of the 2012 review conference of the UNPoA and the 2014 Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the PoA. Countries like ours with significant capacity deficit need international cooperation and sustained capacity building support to be able to effectively implement the outcomes of these two conferences.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We reaffirm that transparency in armaments can build confidence among States and help prevent excessive or destabilizing accumulations of arms that often lead to conflicts. Bangladesh routinely reports to the UN Register of 7 categories of conventional arms and we stress the importance of effective implementation of the three resolutions adopted in 68th UNGA on
‘Transparency entitled ‘Transparency in armaments’, Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures and ‘National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual use goods and technology.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. Bangladesh is a state party to Certain Conventional Weapons –otherwise known as inhumane weapons conventions- as well as the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Treaty. Because of the inhuman nature of these weapons and the repugnant humanitarian effects of their use, we urge states still not parties to consider becoming parties to these instruments.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. The disarmament aspects of new and emerging technologies and their ramifications on international peace and security need to fully understood and appropriate strategies adopted to ensure their peaceful application. Although a few Governmental Group of Experts are working here and there, the rapid development and deployment of drones and certain autonomous weapons as well as the existing and emerging cyber weaponry capabilities demand more concrete and concerted efforts to ensure that such development takes place within international law and a set of multilaterally agreed norms and principles to ensure transparency.

**Finally, Mr. Chairman,**

8. We believe that armament for self-defense and national security is a sovereign right for every state. But we also believe in the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments. We therefore urge all States to refrain from an unnecessary accumulation of arms or from an arms race that creates tension and fuels instability but rather devote resources made available from disarmament to economic and social development to improve the living conditions of billions of poor people on the planet.

I thank you Mr. Chairman,