Mr. Chairman,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

The Arms Trade Treaty has reached 53 ratifications in a record time and we will witness the entry into force of the Treaty already in coming December. This serves as a testimony of the willingness of the international community to regulate irresponsible arms trade.

In addition to all States that participated in the negotiation process, Finland pays tribute to the international and regional organizations and the UN Secretariat. We also owe a great debt to the representatives of civil society who played an active role throughout the ATT process. We count on your future support as well now that we are preparing for the First Conference of States Parties to be held in Mexico next year and for the efficient implementation of the Treaty.

It is important to emphasize that the ATT is to be implemented at the national level. When states are required to display responsibility and transparency in arms transfers with greater respect for human rights and international humanitarian law the ATT will have an impact on lives of millions of people, men, women and children. The important inclusion of gender based violence in the Treaty must now be implemented.

To meet the requirement of universality, countries in all continents should become parties to the ATT. Countries both big and small, major arms producing states and developing countries alike should all ratify the Treaty. Let us not lose this momentum.

Finland welcomes to outcomes of BMS5 meeting of UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons. We call for further exploration of synergies between UNPoA and ATT. Besides regulating the legal arms trade the Arms Trade Treaty aims at reducing illicit trade in arms and after the entry into force the ATT will contribute positively for the implementation.
of UNPoA. Finland will continue its national support for the implementation of UNPoA through contributing to civil society projects and to the valuable work of UNIDIR.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Finland has always considered it important to engage in a global level to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war. Finland’s annual contribution to humanitarian mine action is six million euros.

Finland is pleased with the outcome of the Ottawa Convention’s important Third Review Conference in Maputo. Finland continues to comply fully with the Convention, as we have done with all other arms control and disarmament agreements we have joined. Finland is committed to complete its own stockpile destruction.

We acknowledge the role of the Convention on Cluster Munition from the humanitarian perspective and its goals for universalization.

Mr. Chairman,

Finland considers the CCW is an important instrument of international humanitarian law. As the chair of CCW’s Amended Protocol II, Finland wishes to call on all countries that have not yet done so to join to the CCW and its Protocols.

Finland welcomes the initial discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems within the CCW. It is clear that discussions are needed in the future. The complex issue requires further clarification and further convergence of opinions.

With this we thank you Mr. Chairman