Statement
by Ms. Narcisa Vladulescu,
Counselor, Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN,
on the Conventional Weapons cluster
New York – 22 October 2014
Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.
Romania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday on behalf of the EU. I would like to add a few brief remarks on a national capacity.

Romania ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in March this year and deposited the ratification instrument on the 2nd April 2014; one year after the UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty.
Romania signed and later rapidly ratified this treaty due to the advanced national standards regarding controls on operations involving weaponry, enacted in Romania since 1992 and applied consistently ever since.

We strongly urge all States to ratify and to adhere to the Treaties’ provisions. For many countries, the implementation of the Treaty’s obligations may represent a challenge. Romania is ready to assist those countries, as requested, by sharing the national experience and expertise in this regard. We support the significant effort undertaken by the European Union in a series of outreach activities with a view to assist third countries, upon their request, to strengthen their arms transfer systems, in line with the requirements of the Treaty. Romania is part of the international team of experts which provides expertise aimed at the overall strengthening of export controls, through activities undertaken in the Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports Outreach Program and The EU Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project.

Mr. Chairman,

A little bit over 15 months since its adoption, the Treaty is going to enter into force, on the 24th December 2014. This is a truly significant accomplishment. And a clear indication that the partnership between governments and civil society, working together through the United Nations, can lead to landmark achievements. But in order for the ATT to have a real, concrete impact on the regulation of trade in conventional arms, we need to make sure that it will become a universal instrument, effectively and comprehensively implemented by all states, in particular the major exporting and importing countries.

Romania participated actively in the first round of informal consultations aimed at ensuring an adequate preparation for the first Conference of States Parties to the ATT, in Mexico City, last month. We’d like to thank the Mexican government once again for its hospitality and able leadership in steering the productive
discussions. We also welcome Germany’s offer to host the second round of informal consultations in this process, which is essential for warranting operational status for the Treaty’s provisions without delay. Romania strongly believes that the infrastructure to be built around this Treaty needs to be a flexible, as well as adequate one, which would draw on pre-existing experience and expertise in this field.

We look forward to working closely with all ratifying states, as well as with the signatories, the UN Secretariat, in particular the UNODA, and the civil society, to ensure the best ways and means to promote full and efficient implementation of the ATT, as well as its universalization.

Thank you.