Madam Chair,

Under this cluster, I will speak on four issues, namely 1) Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), 2) UN Register of Conventional Arms, 3) the Arms Trade Treaty process, and 4) the Mine Ban Treaty.

SALW

• Indonesia reaffirms the validity of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (SALW), and underlines the need to coordinate efforts in the UN with a view to reaching an agreement on the follow-up of the Program of Action, in order to ensure its full implementation.

• These weapons have repeatedly proved their capacity to inflict and prolong human suffering and inhibit economic development. This dimension is widely shared by governments and civil society, both within inflicted areas as well as in the wider international community. It is disappointing, however, that despite this common view, the 2006 UN Review Conference was unable to provide a mandate to the General Assembly on a follow-up steps for its further implementation. My delegation believes that the issue of follow-up is imperative in the efforts of the international community to combat the illicit trade in SALW.

• In that regard, my delegation will join efforts by almost all countries to move forward the issue of follow up to the Program of Action within the context of the United Nations. We are encouraged to see that many countries have also voiced similar desire. My delegation will again support the omnibus SALW resolution put forward by South Africa, Japan and Columbia this year.

• My delegation also looks forward to the group of governmental experts on brokering which will be convened next month and hope that this will urgently address a serious problem/gap with regards to combating illicit trade in SALW.
Arms Trade Treaty

• We welcome of the process leading to the establishment of a common international standard on import, export and transfer of conventional arms within the context of the United Nations. My delegation is flexible and does not object to a treaty that will enforce control over export, import and transfers of conventional weapons, thus preventing their acquisition by irresponsible entities, provided that this does not hamper legitimate transfers between governments for self-defense and security needs.

• Such common international standards should be negotiated multilaterally, and should take into consideration the views and concerns of as many States as possible, including those of the developing countries, which are mainly importers of weapons.

• We welcome the series of consultations on the draft resolution on Arms Trade Treaty that were held both in Geneva and New York and which resulted in improvements to the draft resolution. We welcome the inclusion of a new operating paragraph which allows the broader UN membership to provide their views on this matter. We encourage Member States to make use of this opportunity to express their views.

• In order to further ensure total representation on the matter, we believe that not only should the GGE fulfill their requirement of equitable geographical distribution, it should also be fully representative of the widest spectrum of views across the board. In this regard, the role of the Secretary-General in determining the participation of the GGE is crucial for the success of this process.

UN Register of Conventional Arms

• My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary General A/61/261 which contains the recommendations ensuing from the consensus report of the 2006 group of governmental experts on the UN Register of Conventional Arms and its further development. Notwithstanding the many discouraging trends in the disarmament field, the consensus reached in the group of governmental experts in the field of the Register of Conventional Arms represents a move in the right direction.

• We are encouraged to see that the group came up with recommendations to further strengthen the operation of the Register, including an optional standardized form available for member states in reporting their small arms and light weapons transfer. We also welcome the reduction of the reporting threshold for warship (and submarines) from 750 metric tons to 500 metric tons, allowing for greater number and types of warship to be included in the Register. These recommendations will further reduce the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation, and increase confidence and trust among nations.

• My delegation believes that the report of the group has taken another step to take into account the needs and concerns of more countries which were previously not
addressed adequately in the Register. It is the sincere hope of my delegation that the report will contribute to the increasing participation of States to the Register as well as maintain the Register’s relevance for more countries.

**Anti-Personnel Landmines**

- Indonesia was among the first countries to sign the Mine Ban Treaty in Ottawa, in December 1997 and fully shares the values of the Treaty to put an end to the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. The process of ratification was, however delayed due to the multi-dimensional crises which have required our collective energy to address it. The political and economic stability that has followed the successful and smooth democratic transition of government has given a new momentum to allow Indonesia to revisit the efforts to ratify the Treaty.

- Being late in ratifying the Convention does not indicate our lack of commitment to the principles and objectives of the Convention and our commitment towards its universalisation. As a non-user, non-producer as well as non-affected country, Indonesia fully shares and continues to commit itself to the spirit and purpose of the Convention since its inception. It is in this regard that Indonesia has always been supportive to all resolutions on land mine in the United Nations General Assembly since 1996.

- As a signatory state to the Convention, Indonesia is well aware of the concerns of the States Parties to the status of Indonesia’s ratification process. On 11 September 2006 – one month ago –the Government of Indonesia has submitted the draft law of ratification to the Parliament for consideration. With this submission, Indonesia is now in the final stage of the ratification process. With the progress, Indonesia is looking forward to playing its part to universalize the values contained in the Mine Ban Treaty.

Thank you Madam Chair.