Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1. Following up on our comments during the General Debate, I would like to present my delegation’s views on this important subject in further detail.

*Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)*

2. According to a recent study, of the 870 million small arms and light weapons across the globe, three quarters — 650 million — are possessed by civilians. Each year, small arms and light weapons claim half a million innocent lives.

3. While significant progress has been made in the field of small arms and light weapons within the United Nations framework, it will be of no use without follow-up, action and implementation. The international community must exert continuous efforts and display a genuine commitment if we are to practice what we preach, particularly in terms of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Instrument on Marking and Tracing.

4. An encouraging development towards this end was the adoption of a report with consensus last June by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons,
which set out practical recommendations on how to control illicit brokering activities in this field. We believe that controlling brokering is crucial if the international community is to address adequately the unregulated worldwide proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It was on this understanding that the Government of the Republic of Korea, together with the Australian Government, hosted an international conference on brokering controls last March, providing a valuable opportunity to pool our wisdom, experience and information.

5. We hope the GGE on conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, to be convened next year, will set another milestone in strengthening the international efforts on small arms and light weapons. It is also our sincere hope that next year’s biennial meeting on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons will spur the international community to reaffirm our commitment to the Programme and to strengthen its implementation.

6. I also would like to take this opportunity to inform this Committee that the Government of the Republic of Korea is planning to host a regional workshop next year, in cooperation with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and other co-sponsors, to promote the International Instrument on the Marking and Tracing of Small Arms and Light Weapons at the regional level.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Mr. Chairman,

7. With regard to the issue of an Arms Trade Treaty, my delegation welcomes and supports the adoption of UN Resolution 61/89 last year. It is our hope that the Group of Governmental Experts on an arms trade treaty to be established early next year will thoroughly examine the feasibility, scope, and parameters of the proposed treaty and provide practical and balanced recommendations to the General Assembly on how to further develop this issue within the UN framework. During this process, it is our expectation that the GGE will take due consideration of the views presented by many Member States, including those of the Republic of Korea. These views should be analyzed by either the Secretariat or the GGE so that they will also serve as a valuable reference to Member States in their future deliberations.

8. In designing a comprehensive, legally binding instrument to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, it is of crucial importance to come to a clear understanding of the international arms trade as it currently exists. According to the recent 2007 SIPRI survey, a small number of countries account for the majority of global demand for arms. Eighty-nine of the world’s hundred largest arms-producing companies are based in Western countries. Of these, the top 40 companies of one country and the top 32 in Western European countries accounted for about
92 percent of global arms sales. These clear imbalances in the international arms trade should be taken into account as we develop a new set of obligations that will affect the international community as a whole. The active participation of the major arms-supplying States will be indispensable for the success of this exercise.

9. There is also a need to accord due consideration to the existing guidelines regulating international arms transfers, in particular the UN Guidelines for International Arms Transfers adopted by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1996, which provide both general principles and detailed recommendations for international arms transfers. The experience of regional groups such as the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will also serve as a valuable guide.

10. My delegation recognizes that the international trade in conventional weapons is an extremely complex issue. We therefore believe that the best way to achieve the desired result will be through a deliberative, comprehensive, practical and step-by-step approach to the issue of an Arms Trade Treaty.

**Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

Mr. Chairman,

11. Since its adoption in 1980, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has played a pivotal role in the global effort for conventional weapons control and in the realization of the principles of international humanitarian law.

12. During the Third Review Conference, in November 2006, States Parties successfully agreed on the adoption of the Decision on a Compliance Mechanism, the establishment of a Sponsorship Programme, and the Plan of Action to promote the universality of the Convention. However, the discussions on Mines Other than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) have stalled despite the years of hard work put in by the Group of Governmental Experts. My delegation supports the establishment of a legally binding instrument that addresses the inhumane consequences of MOTAPM. We call upon all States Parties to take a more flexible attitude so that we can achieve tangible results during the upcoming Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW next month.

13. My delegation welcomes the entry into force of the Fifth Protocol to the CCW on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in November 2006. It is our pleasure to inform you that the Republic of Korea will be able to ratify the Protocol in the very near future, as soon as the necessary domestic procedures are completed.
Cluster Munitions

Mr. Chairman,

14. During the Group of Governmental Experts Meeting last June, there were active discussions on the issue of cluster munitions and it was confirmed that the international community should expedite its efforts to mitigate or minimize the indiscriminate and lasting effects of cluster munitions. However, differences on how to approach the issue were evident. We understand the eagerness and sincerity of the countries engaged in discussions on cluster munitions outside the CCW in pursuit of comprehensive and perfect legal requirements to address humanitarian concerns.

15. My delegation believes that the CCW is the most appropriate forum to tackle the problems associated with cluster munitions and the challenges arising from differing positions on cluster munitions. A definition of cluster munitions that is acceptable to all countries has yet to be formulated. Military and technical aspects of these munitions also call for more detailed study. Furthermore, the effectiveness of any international regime adopted without the participation of the most relevant states is bound to be contested. In this vein, the discussions on cluster munitions should take place within the CCW to achieve more tangible outcomes and further strengthen the CCW regime. Moreover, it will allow us to strike a fine balance between humanitarian concerns and military needs.

16. The Korean government has faithfully implemented the principles of the Convention. With the aim of strengthening the CCW regime, we will continue to play our part to that end. My delegation calls on all States Parties to demonstrate more flexibility to enable our aspirations to be translated into real action.

Thank you.