Thank you, Mr Chairman.

1. I am taking the floor to explain my delegation's vote in favour of the draft resolution L. 39, entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".

2. Singapore supports, and will continue to support, working towards a common international standard for the control of import, export and transfer of conventional arms. Singapore also firmly believes that further consideration of such a common international standard must be conducted on a step-by-step basis in an open and transparent manner. Further deliberations and decision-making must be conducted on the basis of consensus.

3. On this premise, Singapore supports the establishment of an open-ended working group (OEWG) in 2009, working on the basis of consensus, to discuss the recommendation contained within the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). Singapore also agrees that the OEWG could further consider those elements in the GGE report where consensus could be developed, for their inclusion in an eventual treaty.

Mr Chairman,

4. Singapore notes that the resolution remains ambiguous in OP5 with specific regard to the phrase (quote) "other existing international obligations" (unquote). It is our firm understanding that since the OEWG should work on the basis of consensus, Singapore's position is that the OEWG should only consider "international obligations" that all member states are party to.

Thank you.