Mr. Chairman.

1. The destructive power of conventional weapons may not surpass that of weapons of mass destruction, but their humanitarian and development implications require just as much attention as those of WMDs by the international community. Among them, my delegation would like to focus on issues concerning small arms and light weapons (SALW), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

2. SALWs are the weapons of choice in present-day conflicts, and their excessive accumulation prolongs armed violence and aggravates regional conflicts. Diverse socio-economic and human rights problems such as child soldiers, refugees, food insecurity, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources are all associated with, and in many cases aggravated by, the proliferation of small arms. Additionally, illicit trade in small arms is often closely linked with organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking.

3. In preventing and addressing the problems associated with small arms, my delegation reiterates its unchanging support towards the UN Programme of Action (PoA) as the primary mechanism to deal with the issue, and would like to emphasize the usefulness of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). Furthermore, my delegation strongly believes that small arms are entitled to be included as the eighth category of the UN Register on Conventional Arms.
Mr. Chair,

4. The Republic of Korea recognizes that the central of the CCW cannot be overemphasized in addressing humanitarian concerns related to conventional weapons and in realizing the principles of international humanitarian law. Indeed, the CCW is a dynamic instrument, capable of responding to developments in weapons technology and to the changing nature of armed conflicts through the adoption of new protocols, each containing specific rules regulating a particular type of weapon.

5. The Republic of Korea has faithfully implemented the principles and provisions of the Convention since 2001, following both its letter and spirit. My government reaffirmed its commitment to the Convention with its recent accession to the Fifth Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and will further contribute to advancing the effective implementation of the CCW as well as ensuring its relevance and vitality.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Republic of Korea, as a State Party to the Amended Protocol II, also attaches great importance to international efforts to mitigate humanitarian sufferings caused by landmines. The Republic of Korea has been making meaningful contributions to demining as well as to victim assistance through various projects and will continue to do our part to that end in close cooperation with other countries, international organizations and civil society.

7. With regard to cluster munitions, the Republic of Korea fully recognizes the need to reduce the humanitarian suffering caused by them and supports the international efforts to address the problems associated with the use of cluster munitions. My delegation believes the CCW, whose participation includes the states most involved in this issue, should tackle the problems over cluster munitions and the challenges arising from conflicting positions on this topic. My delegation finds it regrettable that, despite two years of intensive negotiations, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) was unable to reach a consensus on the draft of a new protocol.

8. My delegation firmly believes that a new CCW Protocol on Cluster Munitions, if adopted and faithfully implemented, would have a significant impact on the ground. In this regard, my government has been actively participating in the negotiations process in an accommodating manner, with an aim to producing a result which strikes an appropriate balance between humanitarian concerns and military needs. The Republic of Korea will continue to participate actively and constructively in future discussions if the continuation of further discussions within the CCW framework is agreed upon at the Meeting of States Parties to the CCW in November.

9. Finally, Mr. Chair, my delegation would like to express our support on the resolutions on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and welcome the latest draft resolution on ATT. We appreciate the efforts made by the co-authors to achieve widest possible agreement among the member states.

Thank you.