On behalf of the African Group, I take the floor to congratulate you and all the members of the bureau for the highly commendable manner in which you have steered our debate.

With regard to the subject of future Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the African Group recognizes the need to address the problems relating to unregulated trade in conventional weapons and their diversion to illicit market. Considering that such risks can fuel instability, international terrorism and transnational organized crime, the African group supports that international action should be taken to address the problem. It believes that there should be respective responsibilities for both exporters and importers to address the current situation, based on the principles established in the UN Charter, resistant to political abuse and in a non-discriminatory manner. The African Group believes that we should work towards an instrument, a legally-binding one that will address effectively the challenges posed by illicit trade in conventional arms. On the future Arms Trade Treaty, the African Group wishes to state as follows.

The African Group wishes to state as follows:
The larger picture of the principles of an eventual ATT must be to promote and sustain international peace and security;

- Africa, like many other groups have regional, and sub-regional arrangements that regulate transfer of arms. We advise these existent regional arrangements should inspire our works here;

*On its scope, the African group, recommends, inter alia, that an ATT should be fundamentally anchored on the purposes and principles of the UN charter*

- **The future instrument should be an efficient tool to address the challenges posed by unregulated trade in conventional weapons including small arms and light weapons**

- International assistance in supporting and promoting capacity building; even, measures to promote and popularize the instrument should be encouraged;

The African Group wishes to express its concern at the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons. In this connection, the African group wishes to state that the framework of the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) on national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW, should be pursued with vigour. Africa also wishes to draw attention to the necessity of focusing more on the needs of the developing countries for technical and financial empowerment to enable them address adequately the menace of illicit SALW. Regarding the menace of antipersonnel land mines and explosive remnants of war, (ERW) Africa wishes to reiterate its previous appeals for training of personnel and modernization of existent but old institutions for training experts capable of preventing the pernicious effects of anti personnel mines and ERW.

In this connection, Africa is in full support of all multilateral and bilateral technical efforts aimed at alleviating the suffering of victims of ERW.

Mr. Chair,

I thank you.