First Committee  
29 October 2010

Explanation of Vote on A/C.1/65/L.61  
Mexican amendments to A/C.1/65/L.32 on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Statement by Ms Sarah deZoeten  
First Secretary  
Australian Mission to the United Nations

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman  
I have taken the floor to explain my delegation’s vote against L.61, amendments to the resolution L.32 on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. My delegation wishes to associate itself with the comments already made by the delegations of Colombia and Japan on resolution L.32.

Australia is a co-sponsor of resolution L.32 and a strong supporter of the small arms process and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Our vote on these amendments does not reflect Australia’s position on their substance. Our vote reflects our role as a co-sponsor of resolution L.32 and our support for the text as it stands. It also reflects the value we place on preserving the consensus this resolution has previously enjoyed and on preserving the spirit of consensus in the process more broadly.
It is for this reason, and with much reluctance, that we will vote against these amendments and, indeed, any other amendment to the text.

Thankyou.