Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1. Given the devastating impact of conventional weapons on the lives of civilians, the importance of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in addressing the humanitarian concerns related with those weapons and in realizing the principles of international humanitarian law cannot be overemphasized.

2. Indeed, the CCW has evolved into 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. At the same time the ATT, though still in its beginning stage, is starting to take shape thanks to the emphatic global support to controlling the spread of conventional arms.

Mr. Chairman,

3. As a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) since 2001, the Republic of Korea has been faithfully implementing the Convention, both in letter and spirit. The Republic of Korea’s commitment in this regard was again confirmed by its accession to the Fifth Protocol on Explosive remnants of War (ERW) in 2008. We will continue to do our part to contribute to advancing the effective implementation of the CCW as well as ensuring its continuing relevance and vitality.

4. As a State Party to the Amended Protocol-II, the Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to international efforts to mitigate the humanitarian sufferings caused by landmines. The Republic of Korea has so far contributed 7.1 million dollars to de-mining and victim assistance projects through various channels as a part of its endeavor to join global efforts, and will continue to do so in cooperation with other countries, international organizations and civil society.
Mr. Chairman,

5. The Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on cluster munitions under the CCW framework held nine formal rounds of intensive negotiation within three years with the goal of producing a tangible solution to humanitarian concerns arising from the use of cluster munitions. My delegation believes that the CCW, in which states most involved in this issue participate, is the most practical forum for tackling the challenges arising from conflicting positions on this topic. In this light, the Republic of Korea has participated in the GGE in a constructive and flexible manner so as to produce results which strike an appropriate balance between humanitarian concerns and military considerations. We look forward to a meaningful decision on this issue during the upcoming Meeting of States Parties to the CCW in November.

6. At the Fourth Review Conference of CCW in 2011, we need to review our past performance and to decide future plan of action. Considering the evolution of the international security environment over the past five years, we should explore ways to move the Convention forward. In order to achieve further progress, the Republic of Korea will continue to demonstrate its political support and flexible attitude at the Fourth Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman, let me now turn to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

7. Certainly, we are still a long way from reaching full codification of the ATT. In order to achieve this goal, we must understand that we are embarking on an arduous but necessary path. The Republic of Korea resolutely reaffirms its support for the goals and objectives laid out in the related UN GA resolutions and the Chair's summary of the first ATT Preparatory Committee in July.

8. It is very important that the ATT should be delivered with the maximum participation of member countries, as a higher number of participants will lead to a more effective implementation of the Treaty. However, we know that some of the largest arms exporting countries have expressed dissenting views and, without their participation, the ATT will be critically deficient. With this in mind, the Republic of Korea believes that the lasting success of the ATT rests mainly on a robust global consensus that includes those countries. This being said, the deliberation process should proceed step-by-step without succumbing to the temptation to proceed hastily or cut corners by obtaining a watered-down consensus.

9. My government is of the view that the scope of the ATT must cover all conventional arms.
Furthermore, we must clearly define what activities relating to the transfer of conventional arms will be controlled by the treaty. In this regard, an annex to the treaty containing controlled items and activities might serve to reduce ambiguity, inconsistency, and confusion stemming from different interpretations among countries. My delegation stands ready to discuss with due flexibility all of the relevant ideas indicated in the Facilitator's Summary for Scope in the July PrepCom.

10. The Republic of Korea believes that the legally binding parameters are one of the most significant elements of the ATT. The Principles of the ATT need to be substantially agreeable to the membership in the broadest possible manner. As such, preexisting regional or international parameters and other parameters suggested in the GA resolutions could serve as a starting block for further discussions.

11. I would like to take this opportunity to once again offer our firm support for the full codification of the ATT by the target date. My delegation can assure you of our constructive participation in the deliberation process in this session and beyond.

Thank you. /END/