Mr. Chairman, my delegation takes the floor to explain its vote on draft decision L50 to extend the duration of the last Prep Com for the 2012 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty by two days. We have voted for the draft. However, it is our understanding that the discussions in the Prep Com will continue to be without prejudice to and will not pre-judge in any manner the negotiations at the 2012 UN Conference on an Arms Trade Treaty. The same holds for any of the papers circulated during the Prep Com meetings, including by the Chair of the Prep Com. As stated by the Chair of the Prep Com himself at this session of the First Committee, “Each of these papers was my personal interpretation of the discussion and do not bind any delegation.”

With regard to the ATT, my delegation continues to hold that prospects for a viable and effective Treaty of universal acceptance would be enhanced only if the interests of all the stakeholders are addressed in a consensus based process and outcome, without artificial deadlines.

October 28, 2011