Mr. Chairman.

1. Considering the impact on the ground, the importance of legal instruments regulating conventional weapons can not be exaggerated. In coming months, we will have the Forth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapon (CCW), the forth PrepCom and the Diplomatic Conference on the Arms Trade Treat (ATT), and the PrepCom and the Second Review Conference of the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW PoA).

2. The CCW forms an essential part of international law applicable to armed conflicts. Adherence to the Convention and its Protocols has steadily increased, but the number of States Parties to the Convention still falls short of universal membership. We encourage the countries which have not yet joined the Convention to become parties to the Convention. The Convention’s Amended Protocol II marked significant advancement in addressing humanitarian concerns related to landmines. As a State Party to the Protocol, the Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to international efforts to mitigate the humanitarian sufferings caused by landmines. The Republic of Korea has been making meaningful contributions to projects of de-mining and victim assistance through various channels as part of its endeavor to join the global effort, and will continue to do so.
3. We need the CCW to be a dynamic instrument that responds to the urgent humanitarian challenges before us. The adoption and entry into force of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war (ERW) demonstrated that the CCW is an important, living instrument of international law. Republic of Korea continues to be strongly committed to Protocol V which promotes effective action on ERW.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We share the international community’s concerns about humanitarian impact caused by the irresponsible use of cluster munitions and we support the work of the CCW’s Group of Governmental Experts to negotiate a protocol that strikes the right balance between humanitarian considerations and legitimate security needs. In this light, the Republic of Korea, despite the unique and volatile security situations it faces, has actively participated in the GGE in a constructive manner, and looks forward to a successful outcome during the upcoming Review Conference in November.

5. At the November Fourth Review Conference of CCW, we need to review our past performances and decide future actions. The Republic of Korea will continue to do its part in advancing the effective implementation of the CCW, and looks forward, in this regard, to active contributions from other Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Since the three rounds of previous PrepCom meetings, we have witnessed the ATT beginning to take concrete shape. The adoption of GA resolutions, follow-up measures, and the deliberation process during previous PrepComs signal an unambiguous and resolute demonstration of the emphatic global support for the need to control the unregulated spread of conventional arms. It is in the interests of the international community that the international trade in conventional arms should be regulated by a legally binding instrument containing common standards for transfers of conventional arms. In this connection, the Republic of Korea resolutely reaffirms its support for the goals and objectives behind the ATT. My delegation believes that the ATT should be delivered with the maximum participation of member countries, as wider participants will lead to a more effective implementation of the Treaty.

7. The illicit trade and uncontrolled spread of the SALW keeps posing great threat to the peace and security of the international community. Currently, the UN PoA is the only global instrument in regulating the illicit transfers of the SALW. At the third and fourth Biennial Meeting of States, and at the first Meeting of Governmental Experts, we recommitted ourselves to fighting against the scourge which the illicit transfers of SALW entail. My delegation sees the upcoming Second Review Conference as a refreshing opportunity for assessing past achievements, and it will serve as a stepping-stone for further enhancing its effectiveness. The Republic of Korea is committed to further enforcement of the PoA and looks forward to working closely to make the Second Review Conference a success.

Thank you. /END/