STATEMENT

BY

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AT

THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS CLUSTER

OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 67TH UNGA SESSION

New York, October 25, 2012

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you and members of the Bureau on your election and I wish to assure you of my delegations full support and cooperation. Uganda associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Uganda was encouraged by the general support among delegations during the July 2012 Conference on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), on the need to establish a common international standard for the regulation of trade and transfer of conventional arms. It is essential that we build on the progress made, which will require delegations to show more flexibility with a view to bridging our differences.

We commend Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina, the President of the Conference, for his untiring efforts working with delegations towards building a consensus on the elements of the much awaited arms trade treaty.

It is regrettable that the Conference did not achieve consensus to conclude an Arms Trade Treaty that would establish high common standards for international trade in conventional arms. We all know that the continued absence of commonly-agreed international standards for the trade and transfer of conventional arms contributes to conflict, terrorism, and displacement on innocent civilians and adversely affect regional and international security and stability.

We must therefore seize the impetus of the July 2012 Conference and continue the momentum towards conclusion of a treaty that will have genuine impact on the victims of the illicit trade and transfer in small arms and ammunitions.

Uganda reiterates its conviction that the adoption of an effective ATT will support and enhance Member States’ effort to curb the problem of illicit proliferation of arms and their ammunition, while preserving the legitimate right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their ammunitions for their self-defence. The draft Resolution entitled “The arms trade treaty” contained in document A/C.1/67/L.11 presented by Costa Rica provides a way forward to attain our desired goal and thus has Uganda’s support.
Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) in 2001 signified the international community’s resolve to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the Second Review Conference on the implementation of the PoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with a consensus outcome, and commend Ambassador Joy Ogwu, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria, for her distinguished leadership.

Uganda underscores the importance of such reviews in the future to take stock of the progress made in implementing the PoA, identify the gaps and challenges, and devise more effective strategies, drawing on national, regional and international experiences for effective implementation.

One of the major challenges faced by many member States in implementing the PoA, is the lack of adequate resources and technical capacity in some areas. Uganda therefore calls for enhanced cooperation and support from regional and international partners to facilitate the implementation of the PoA.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, we commend Norway for successfully hosting of the third meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway September 11-14, 2012 whose outcome showed the significant progress attained. Uganda congratulates the Republic of Zambia which will be hosting the 4th Meeting of States Parties from 10-13 September 2013 in Zambia.

Thank you.