STATEMENT

by

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at the

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First Committee
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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY –
Mr Chairman,

My delegation fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Sweden has the honour to present draft resolution L.12 on the "Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects," CCW for short.

The purpose of the CCW is to ban or restrict the use of certain specific types of weapons that cause excessive injury or unnecessary suffering to combatants or affect civilians indiscriminately. The Convention forms an essential and integral part of international law applicable to armed conflict. It is designed to provide a framework within which humanitarian concerns regarding conventional weapons can be dealt with. We need the CCW to be a dynamic instrument responding to urgent humanitarian challenges before us.

Today, the CCW has 114 States Parties and five signatories. We would like to take this opportunity to express our hope that the countries that have not yet joined the Convention will find it in their interest to do so, and become parties to the Convention and its Protocols, including the important amendment that extends the scope of the Convention to include situations of non-international conflict.

Mr Chairman,

The purpose of the resolution is to continue to express support for the CCW, with particular focus on the universalization of the Convention and its Protocols. The text of the resolution also reflects the ongoing work within the framework of the Convention since the adoption of last year's resolution, including references to the outcome of the Fourth Review Conference, held in November 2011, and the experts meetings held in April 2012.

The draft resolution is an expression of support for the CCW as an important international humanitarian law instrument. It does not pronounce itself on the substance of issues being discussed in this connection, and it does not prejudge the outcome of any future discussions among States Parties.
It is our sincere hope and expectation that the draft resolution will, as in previous years, be adopted without a vote.

Mr. Chairman.

Allow me to add a few words of the ATT.

The international community needs to conclude, without delay, an Arms Trade Treaty that has the strength and breadth to make a real impact on the problems caused by poorly-regulated trade in conventional arms. One of the most enduring contributions of this session of the Committee may well be the creation of the institutional and procedural conditions for the achievement of such a universal agreement for the strengthening of controls on the international transfers of conventional weapons.

Millions of people around the world suffer the consequences of uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking - not only are hundreds of thousands of people killed or injured every year, but the economic and social prospects of future generations are also undermined.

There is a clear case for governments to act and finish the job that began some six years ago. We should, therefore, have a new round of ATT negotiations within the United Nations as soon as possible. We should continue working where we left off at the end of the this summer’s Diplomatic Conference, taking the July 26th negotiating text as the starting point and using the same rules of procedure and arrangements as agreed then. An ATT is overdue and we need to bring this process to a successful conclusion. Sweden joins others in encouraging all delegations to support the draft resolution L.11 on the ATT, presented by the seven co-authors.

Thank you for your attention.