Pakistan supports the broader objectives of pursuing transparency in armaments including through reporting on exports and imports of arms including procurement through national production. Such measures have the potential to serve as early warning system to assess global armament accumulation trends and a potential force that ought to put some moral pressure on states responsible for destabilizing arms transfers, production and stockpiles. Pakistan has also been regularly reporting to the UN Register on Conventional Arms.

However, there can hardly be a one size fits all approach for all regions or sub-regions. For transparency measures to gain broader traction and acceptability, recognition of different political and security conditions in various regions is essential. These measures also need to be pursued in tandem with others.

Transparency is a means to an end; not an end itself. The ultimate objectives should be to seek restraints, promote CBMs, ease tensions and resolution of disputes through negotiations and mediations at the regional, sub-regional and global levels. We need to assess also the potential co-relation of downward trend in reporting with the perceived limited utility or lack of a clear path to conflict resolution.

We support the establishment of new GGE to review the operation and further development of UN Register on Conventional Arms. However, we also share the broad expectation that composition of these and indeed all GGEs established within the UN in the field of disarmament would strictly conform to the principle of equitable geographic representation, particularly from developing countries. We recognize the financial constraints being faced by the UN system but these should not limit opportunities for participation particularly from diverse regions and perspectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman