Mr. Chairman,

Egypt abstained on draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.4 entitled “The arms trade treaty”, as well as on its voted operative paragraphs which welcome the adoption of the Treaty on 2 April 2013 and call upon all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty at the earliest possible date.

I wish to highlight the following points in explanation of our abstention:

1. The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by vote of the General Assembly in April 2013. The vote came after the failure to achieve consensus at the “United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty” on a *fair, balanced and robust text that is acceptable to all*.

2. The Treaty lacks a number of elements that would have helped to achieve its object and purpose. These include:
   a. The absence of definitions to important terms and concepts essential for the implementation.
   b. The absence of a collective mechanism to identify the applicability of agreed criteria by which an exporter would determine the application of the Treaty.
   c. Lack of reference to the crimes of aggression and foreign occupation, as part of the assessment that would have clarified the implementation process.

Mr. Chairman,

The efforts of the international community should continue to fill in the remaining gaps that the Arms Trade Treaty has left unfulfilled. We continue to call for addressing the elements of over production and the ever increasing stockpiles of conventional weapons within major arms exporters and producers. We still believe that every effort must be exerted to bring production and stockpiles in major arms producing States under international scrutiny. International accountability is the only guarantee against the possible abuse of the existing imbalance between major arms producers and the rest of the world.

We will continue to follow closely the further developments regarding the accession to, entry into force and implementation of the “the Arms Trade Treaty” in order to determine our final position towards it.

I thank you Mr. Chairman,