Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has voted in favour of the draft resolution L.4 on Arms Trade Treaty as a demonstration of our solidarity with the people of states negatively impacted by unregulated and illicit trade in conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons.

Having said that, we share the concerns expressed by delegations on the decision to adopt by vote multilateral treaties which have direct bearing on the legitimate self-defence needs and interests. We also strongly disagree with attempts to reinterpret the principle of consensus.

We wish to highlight once again some of the following key aspects which Pakistan had repeatedly drawn attention to during the ATT negotiations, although these points were not taken on board:

First: Arms acquisition by states, motivated by security needs, can hardly be separated from their production-and-sale that are driven by commercial and political considerations. The treaty text ignores the vital element of 'excessive production' that is an inseparable component of the entire chain of the international trade in conventional arms. Trade and transfer aspect of conventional arms cannot be divorced from their production and bottom lines.

This, in our view, is a serious omission which may impact treaty’s effectiveness over the long run.

Second: the treaty may be seen by many as essentially a product of and by the exporters only. It may be perceived as not striking the necessary balance of interests and obligations among the exporters and importers as well as the affected States.

Third: The treaty glossed over two lacunae. These include:

Absence of definitions. This omission represented a departure from established treaty practice. Such a deviation may be used by some exporters to circumvent provisions of this treaty. Multiplicity of national definitions goes against the central objective of this treaty i.e. establishing "common highest international standards".

Lack of accountability of exporters. Although the text lists a few obligations for the exporters, it does not provide a clear mechanism for their accountability in the event of violations of the ATT provisions particularly those related to the laid down criteria. Such lack of oversight could reinforce the perception that the treaty is unfairly tilted toward the exporting states.

Pakistan’s inter-Ministerial mechanism continues to examine and evaluate the Treaty provisions from various aspects. We hope that the ATT review process would address the concerns outlined above. Such course correction would be the key to promote the effectiveness and universality of the Treaty.

I thank you Mr. Chairman