General Statement in connection with Cluster IV resolutions.

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to make the following general statement on behalf of the European Union with regard to a number of relevant resolutions under Cluster IV. The following countries also subscribe to this statement.

Mr. Chairman,

All countries subscribing to this statement join consensus on these resolutions. However we would like to stress some particularly relevant aspects in their context.

Over the course of these last weeks we have joined many others in stating the importance that we attach to the landmark Arms Trade Treaty. It is the outcome of a constructive, comprehensive and inclusive seven year-long process which has been supported by a geographically diverse range of States. We have supported it from the outset by promoting widely and actively its principles.

The ATT establishes robust and effective common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms and provides a new multilateral framework for transparency and accountability in that trade. It also helps prevent arms from being transferred irresponsibly and illegally.

154 States voted in favor of the adoption of the ATT in April 2013 and to date already 114 States have signed the Treaty. When effectively and widely implemented, the ATT will contribute to more responsible and transparent international arms transfers and help eradicate illicit trade. By signing and ratifying the Treaty States can sustain the international momentum generated by the ATT. All countries subscribing to this statement are signatories to the Treaty and national ratification procedures are either complete or under way.

We are aware of the challenges this new Treaty is facing, among others securing an early entry into force, ensuring effective implementation and working towards universalization. We are ready to contribute actively to addressing them and to work towards the rapid entry into force of the Treaty and its full implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish, therefore, to express our hope in that in our future deliberations the successful outcome of the ATT will be more forcefully reflected in relevant resolutions, than it has been the case this year.

Mr. Chairman,

We also wish to underscore the importance of the first ever Security Council Resolution 2117 dedicated exclusively to the issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 26 September 2013. Small Arms and Light Weapons are the most frequently used in armed conflicts and millions of civilians are still victims of those weapons. Resolution 2117 gives the chance to renew and strengthen international efforts to tackle the illicit transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons, help
secure peace and stability and reduce human suffering. The Arms Trade Treaty is also recognized as a key part of this resolution.

Finally, both the Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 2117, in their respective ways, recognize that illicit or poorly regulated transfers fuel armed conflicts and have a wide range of negative human rights, humanitarian, development and socioeconomic consequences, in particular on the security of civilians in armed conflict, including and the disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls, and exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence and the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law. We welcome these encouraging signs of increased humanitarian and in particular gender awareness in disarmament and arms control.

We regret, however, that these significant developments are missing in the text of resolutions dealing with the specific issue of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.