Mr. Chairman,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

This year has proven to be successful in the field of the Conventional weapons cluster. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the General Assembly strengthened the United Nations credibility in delivering disarmament and arms control treaties. We would also like to warmly thank Ambassadors Woolcott from Australia and Moritán from Argentina for their invaluable contributions as Chairs of the ATT Conferences.

We would like to commend all states that have already signed or ratified the Treaty. We would urge all other states that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify as soon as possible. As Ambassador Woolcott estimated, we could be reaching the threshold of 50 ratifications by summer 2014.

The Arms Trade Treaty delivers added value only if all States from big arms producers to smaller developing countries in all continents sign, ratify and start implementing the criteria set out in the Treaty. There are several donors and instruments supporting and giving technical assistance to needy states. Duplication should, however, be avoided by close coordination among the donors.

Human rights and international humanitarian law constitute a significant part within the Treaty. We are convinced that the ATT has the potential to reduce gender based violence and enhance lives of those men, women and children living under the threat of conflict and violence around the world. The Treaty will also contribute in diminishing the negative consequences of irresponsible and illicit arms trade.
We would again like to thank wholeheartedly the representatives of the civil society who helped and encouraged us throughout the negotiations. Your work has and continues to be instrumental in promoting universalization and implementation of the Treaty.

Mr Chairman,

The substantive outcome document, of the 2012 Review Conference on UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, provides concrete measures and steps to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Program of Action.

Finland considers UN’s International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) valuable as they provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on controls of small arms and light weapons. Finland among others contributed to development by UNIDIR of tools for better implementation of the ISACS.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Finland warmly welcomes the adoption of UNSC resolution 2117 on small arms and light weapons. The resolution takes well into account the recommendations of the recent report of the UN Secretary General and allows taking forward the dynamics initiated by the ATT.

Finland as a State Party to the Ottawa Convention is looking forward to the annual meeting of States Parties and the Review Conference preparatory meeting in December paving way to the Convention's Third Review Conference in Maputo next year. We continue to support the humanitarian mine actions annually with approximately six million euros.

With this we thank you Mr. Chairman