Statement by
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(Check Against Delivery)
Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation as you steer our deliberations towards a successful outcome.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel welcomes the adoption of the **Arms Trade Treaty**. This treaty is an important step in the international community's fight against illegal trade in arms, including the transfer of arms to terrorists and other non-state actors. Israel believes that this Treaty strengthens international norms and national tools for arms trade control, while taking into consideration national security concerns. In our view, the proper regulation of trade, using thorough standards of assessments, monitoring and control, will contribute to peace, security and stability both in the Middle East and on a global scale. Israel has taken an active role in the negotiation of the ATT and voted in favor of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in April 2013 which adopted the Treaty. Currently, we are in the final stage of an internal review process with the goal of considering favorably the signature of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

For several years Israel has been stressing that preventing terrorists and the states sponsoring them from acquiring conventional or non-conventional arms should be addressed by the international community as a matter of priority. In this context, Israel attaches great importance to the **UN Programme of Action** to “Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects,” and looks forward to the next Biennial Meeting of States to be held in June 2014. We would also like to highlight the
significance of the ITI and remind delegations that we could all benefit from enhancing the cooperation on tracing of SALW as well as meeting the challenges of marking and record-keeping.

The effective implementation of the UNPoA at the national, regional and global levels is more relevant than ever. Turbulence in the Middle East in general and in Syria in particular, poses great challenges, which should prompt the international community to work together to prevent illicit trafficking and terrorism. In this context, Israel has emphasized its deep concern over the illicit proliferation of MANPADS and short-range rockets. These weapons could present a serious threat to civil, commercial and military aviation if they fall into the wrong hands. The international community must allocate the necessary resources to address this grave danger effectively and focus on concrete steps to prevent these weapons from reaching terrorists and non-state actors.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel is a consistent supporter of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and confident of its ability to promote the progressive development of the rules of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts. Accordingly, Israel was encouraged by the genuine efforts made by members of the CCW, especially by the major users and producers of cluster munitions, to agree on a sixth Protocol on Cluster Munitions in its Fourth Review Conference in November 2011, following four years of serious negotiations. Israel has played an active and constructive role in the CCW negotiations on this and other protocols. We are still of the view that this sixth protocol would have a beneficial influence on the ground and yield significant
humanitarian impact, while preserving the necessary balance between humanitarian and military concerns.

Israel is of the view that the CCW can also contribute in a meaningful way to addressing the issue of IEDs. We would hope that this matter, which is vital to many CCW States Parties, could be further advanced in a very concrete way in the near future.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a State Party to the CCW and Amended Protocol II, Israel has undertaken concrete measures aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences that may be associated with the use of anti-personnel landmines. In this respect:

- INMAA (Israel National Mine Action Authority) was established in March 2011 by the Minefield Clearance Law which was passed unanimously in the Israeli Parliament. INMAA is responsible for planning, coordinating, executing and supervising civilian mine clearance operations, while taking into consideration the International Mine Action Standards endorsed by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group. Over the past two and half years INMAA has engaged in numerous mine clearance projects, formulated directives for its activities, recruited skilled personnel, issued tenders for companies that execute and supervise the clearance operations, and took measures to enhance public awareness of safety and security. INMAA is enjoying productive cooperation with international organizations such as UNMAS and GICHD.

- In 1994 Israel unilaterally declared a moratorium on any export, sales or transfers of all types of anti-personnel mines. The moratorium was declared in recognition of the grave humanitarian consequences associated with anti-personnel mines and the need, in this respect, for self-imposed
state restraint. Since its initiation, the moratorium has been extended for additional three-year periods, most recently in July 2011 (in force until July 2014).

With regards to **MOTAPM**, Israel would like to see this issue discussed further in the CCW provided it takes into account the necessary balance between military and humanitarian considerations and has realistic prospects to advance the matter further. A great deal of progress has already been achieved in recent years which would hopefully focus discussions on the specific issues that need additional consideration.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

Israel welcomes the continued operation of the **United Nations Register of Conventional Arms**. Israel has been reporting annually to the Register since its foundation in 1992, in accordance with its categories on the major conventional arms. We recognize the Register's importance and view its role as a significant measure for building confidence, trust and security between states, while taking into account national, regional and global security concerns of states, particularly those in the Middle East.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.