Thank you Mr Chairman,

New Zealand is pleased to be able to join consensus on a number of Cluster IV resolutions which touch upon the biggest breakthrough in conventional weapons this year - namely the agreement of the Arms Trade Treaty.

New Zealand was an active contributor to the intensive multi-year cross-regional effort that led to the successful conclusion of the ATT. Although consensus proved elusive, we were pleased to see the final text of the Treaty adopted by the overwhelming majority of the UN General Assembly, a confirmation – if one was needed – of the importance and appeal of the Treaty.

We are thrilled to have been among the first, now 114, states to have signed the ATT, which has been lauded by almost every delegation during the work of this Committee as the crowning achievement of recent disarmament efforts. Of course it is not enough to have agreed the Treaty and New Zealand intends to continue playing an active role in its entry into force and implementation.

Mr Chairman,

New Zealand sees the Treaty as a significant and necessary step forward in the global struggle to curb the illicit trade of conventional weapons. The ATT will move us closer to achieving our shared goal of mitigating the serious security and humanitarian consequences of this trade, particularly through its coverage of small arms and light weapons – a point emphasised in a number of resolutions before us today.

In light of the important content of these resolutions New Zealand appreciates the efforts of the core sponsors to achieve consensus, which we are of course pleased to join. Given the significance of the ATT, and the near-universal support it enjoys among the UN membership, we do hope that future such resolutions will be able to incorporate stronger references to the success of the Treaty.

Thank you Mr Chairman.