Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to join the preceding speakers in congratulating you for assuming the important responsibility of presiding over this First ATT States Party Conference going on here at Cancun – MEXICO. My delegation and I commend you for the skillful manner in which you are presiding over our deliberations and wish to assure you of our full support and cooperation. May I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico for the good hospitality and hosting this important conference for the first time here in Cancun.

Mr. President

The United Republic of Tanzania is a signatory to Regional and International Treaties, Conventions and Programme of Actions which include: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Nuclear Fissile
Material Cut Off Treaty, Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ), Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as well as United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA). The aim of these Instruments is to control, reduce, or combat and eradicate the possession of Nuclear Weapons, Chemicals and Biological Weapons as well as illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs).

On 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2013, after many years of discussions and negotiations, the United Nations (UN ) General Assembly ( UNGA) adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by an overwhelming majority. Thereafter, on 24\textsuperscript{th} December 2014, ninety days following the date of the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification of the Treaty, the ATT entered into force.

The ATT is the first Treaty setting goals, standards to govern the international trade in conventional arms and munitions. As such, the ATT is an important step forward. At its core, the ATT represents a shift by the international community towards addressing one of the structural conditions that make crimes under international law and
serious violations and abuses of human rights, possible the poorly regulated and illicit supply of arms. In seeking to regulate the conditions that allow such violations and abuses to occur, the ATT is a preventive Treaty. The overwhelming support for the ATT in the UN General Assembly – with 156 States voting to adopt the Treaty is indicative of this wider focus on preventive approaches to armed conflict and human rights violations.

The ATT provides a regulatory mechanism that places various duties upon states to control and assess whether arms exports and transfers might be used to carry out crimes under international law or serious human rights violations. The legality of an arms transfer is now explicitly linked to human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL). These standards, if properly implemented, will stop a wide range of arms flow when the transferring state has knowledge at the time of authorization that the arms or items would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or if there is an overriding risk that an expert could facilitate a serious violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.
Mr. President.

Tanzania remains deeply concerned with the illicit manufacture, stock piling and transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) including their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. Tanzania is among the African counties faced with proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) due to the instability in the neighbouring countries of the Great Lakes Region. Therefore, Tanzania is effectively engaged in combating illicit trade of conventional weapons. In order to control proliferation of these weapons, Tanzania signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 03rd June 2013. Tanzania has also established the Arms Management and Disarmament Committee at National level and has initiated empowerment programmes for Officers of Defence and Security Committee at Regional, District, Ward and Village levels.

Mr. President.

The initiatives have led to among others, the decrease of armed robbery cases from 596 cases in June 2013 to 582 cases in June 2014 that being about 2.35% decrease. And from January 2013 to June 2014, the Government of Tanzania has seized 438 firearms
compared to 5074 in 2006/2013. In strengthening measures of arms control, Tanzania began marking civilian firearms with National identification code numbers and the exercise is currently going on country wide. Therefore, Tanzania continues to support the Regional and International Disarmament mechanisms such as the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) on SALW with a view of eradicating illicit proliferation, use and ownership of such weapons.

**Mr. President.**

In conclusion, the presence of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Conventional Weapons such as the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) pose a great threat to International peace and security since they exacerbate the spread and continuation of intra and inter-state conflicts and wars. It has further been observed that, the proliferation of illicit weapons is one of the biggest security challenges currently facing Tanzania and the East African Region. The availability of arms fuels political instability, deters economic development and contributes to alarming levels of crimes.

**I THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT.**