STATEMENT BY H. E. AMBASSADOR ANTONIO GUERREIRO,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT,
at the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

New York, 18 March 2013

(check against delivery)
Mr. President, Ambassador Peter Woolcott,

The Brazilian delegation congratulates you on assuming the presidency of this Conference. Rest assured of Brazil's full cooperation and support over the next nine days.

Mr. President,

Brazil supported Ambassador Garcia Moritán's text and was ready to join the consensus necessary for its adoption, even though we recognized that there was room for improvement. We now welcome the opportunity to convey our suggestions to the draft.

First of all, we believe that there needs to be a clear definition of "transfers" – one that includes not only strictly commercial transactions, but also gifts and loans.

With regard to the Treaty's scope (Article 2), Brazil believes that ammunition must be included, so as to reinforce the regulations to be applied to their transfers.

On the issue of prohibited transfers and national assessment (Articles 3 and 4), the first point that I would like to mention is the need that any arms transfer to non-State actors be authorized by the recipient State. This is a measure of utmost importance in the prevention and combating the illicit trafficking in conventional weapons, which is sadly not reflected on the current draft. We would suggest that a prohibition to transfers to unauthorized non-State actors be added to Article 3.

Brazil also feels that the current provisions regarding the prevention of diversion into the illicit market need to be strengthened. Another issue that is related to this matter is that of the requirement of end-user certificates for all arms transfers. It is important to note that we favor the expression "end user" instead of "end use". In our view "end use" is more relevant to dual use items.

Finally, we also consider the requirement of ten years for record-keeping (Article 10.2) to be insufficient. As we all know, weapons have great durability, and can inflict grave harm for a much longer period. Brazil keeps its records on transfers indefinitely, and believes that an ATT should require that as well.

Mr. President,

In closing, I would like to wish you success in your duties and reiterate Brazil's unwavering commitment to the adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty, which would be a milestone in our quest for a more peaceful and secure world. You can count on the full dedication of the Brazilian delegation to this goal.