CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at the Final United Nations Conference

on the Arms Trade Treaty

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Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

Firstly, I would to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the election to the post of the President of the Conference and let me assure you that Czech delegation will continue to offer you every support and cooperation during this important Conference.

The Czech Republic considers the opening of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty to be an important step towards the successful conclusion of a longstanding effort of the international community to find highly efficient, globally applicable and legally binding international instrument establishing common standards for international trade in arms.

The Czech Republic has constantly supported the idea of the Arms Trade Treaty from the very beginning. We are strongly persuaded that the United Nations Conference on Arms Trade Treaty in July 2012 fell very short of reaching historical consensus on the Treaty text. We can see unprecedented determination of countries from different regions of the world to finalize the process. We have gathered here not to miss this unique opportunity to conclude a globally acceptable Arms Trade Treaty. Indeed, we consider the Treaty as a cornerstone in the development of international norms in the area of global arms trade.

Mr. President

The Czech Republic recognizes the Draft of the Arms Trade Treaty submitted by the President of the Conference on 26 July 2012 as the basis for the upcoming 9 days of negotiations. The draft consists of most of principles the Czech Republic would like to see in the Arms Trade Treaty text.

Taking into among those principles, and with regard to our national position, we remain committed to the objective of transparent and accountable level playing field which should be equal for all actors involved in global arms trade. We assess that the Treaty has potential to become an interactive framework that involves not only all participating states, but also civil society. Last, but not least, we are convinced that the respect for human rights and for international humanitarian law shall be embodied in the Arms Trade Treaty text as its key principles.
The Czech Republic, as a Member State of the European Union, would like to emphasize the crucial role which regional integration organizations have played in creation of arms trade control mechanisms on regional level.

The Czech Republic highly appreciates the role played by Ambassador Moritán during the negotiations in July 2012, his competence and personal determination. The Czech Republic also strongly believes that under the presidency of Ambassador Woolcott, who proved his professionalism and diplomatic skills during his previous assignments, our years of hard work and mutually shared interest in achieving the goal will finally materialize in broad consensus of negotiating countries on Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you.