INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY MR. JOJI DUMUKORO

FIJI’S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FINAL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

18 MARCH 2013 – NEW YORK

Mr. President
Distinguished delegates

I join the distinguished delegates who have spoken before me, in congratulating you, on behalf of the Fiji delegation, on your appointment to preside over this important negotiation process on ATT.

And we assure you Mr. President our full support and cooperation, and we trust that under your presidency, this Conference will successfully achieve its core objectives.

Mr. President, Fiji aligns itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate from Mexico on behalf of 108 countries as we work towards a common platform to address the issue of illegal arms trade. Fiji also supports the view to include ammunitions and munitions, parts and components in the scope. The inclusion of these will not simply be symbolic but it will have an impact on substance.

We are of the firm view that the ATT should not in any way compromise the endeavour of states to defend itself or obtain arms for peaceful means under international law. Fiji fully supports all efforts to uphold peace and security in our society.

Mr. President, the implications and potential consequences of a poorly regulated framework will only fuel the illicit trade in arms where they will be used or are likely to be used for violations of international law, including breaches of the UN Charter and of rules of customary law, relating to the threat or use of force: gross violations of international human rights law; serious violations of humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention; and crimes against humanity and genocide.

I thank you Mr. President.