STATEMENT

by the Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation
at the United Nations Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

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New York, 18 March 2013
Distinguished Mr. President,

Dear colleagues,

The Russian Federation believes that it is a rather important task to settle the problems related to the uncontrolled proliferation of arms, especially in such a way as not to undermine the legitimate trade. This task should be promoted by the Treaty under discussion at this Conference.

Unfortunately, the July draft treaty can hardly be considered an effective instrument contributing to this task. The draft requires a qualitative follow-up revision, mainly in terms of preventing the diversion of arms to the illicit traffic. As of now, this task is only mentioned in the draft and it is not substantiated by any specific measures. At this Conference, the Russian delegation intends to actively promote the relevant suggestions aimed at giving the Treaty more “flesh”.

It is extremely important to make sure that the provisions of the Treaty are clear and concrete in order to avoid double or triple interpretations. It refers to all provisions of the draft, including those of humanitarian nature.

Another matter of principle is to ensure proper organization of the negotiation process. It is necessary to draw lessons from the serious mistakes of the July Conference that made it impossible to adopt the Treaty last year. To be successful, the negotiations need to be transparent and inclusive, and give each State Party an opportunity to assert and promote its approaches, as it is always done in the framework of the United Nations.

Obviously, a prerequisite for success is the readiness to hear each other and search for reasonable compromises, including with due account for the opinion of the minority on one or another issue. This is the only way to ensure accession to the Treaty of the as wide circle of States as possible and progress in making it universal.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that the Russian delegation is ready to comprehensively contribute to the success and productivity of the Conference.