United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

New York, 18 March 2013

Statement by the Delegation of Switzerland

Mr. Erwin Bollinger, Ambassador

Head of Delegation

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Switzerland would like to welcome your appointment as President of the UN Conference on the ATT and to express its full support for your efforts in bringing the ATT process to a successful conclusion at this final conference as stated in the relevant UN General Assembly Resolution. The time for the adoption of a strong and robust ATT is ripe.

Mr. Chair, you have invited delegations to suggest improvement of the chairman's draft ATT of 26 July 2012 (CRP1). With a view to contributing to the two next announced President’s draft texts, Switzerland has elaborated two working papers, one on article 3 and the other on article 4. We have circulated those documents to all Member States in the last ten days. We will circulate copies of these two working papers later today in the conference room, to inform our discussion of scope, prohibitions and criteria tomorrow morning. We are receiving support for these proposals from other delegations and welcome further expressions of support.

The working papers seek to ensure that proposed transfers of conventional arms are not authorized when there is a substantial risk that they would be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law. Likewise, we propose changes needed to ensure that the ATT does not fall short of existing international law independent of the current negotiations. With these changes, the ATT would more effectively reduce the negative humanitarian consequences of the global trade in conventional arms.

We invite delegations to study our two proposals and to co-sponsor either one or both of them. With your permission, Mr President, we will present them tomorrow morning in more detail.

Thank you.