Mr. President,

Let me join the others in congratulating you on your election as President of the United Nations Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. I wish to assure you and the Bureau of my delegation’s full cooperation and support.

Mr. President,

We share all the concerns and views about danger and burden caused by the illicit trade in conventional arms in relation to peace, security, development and the well-being of human-beings at both the national and international levels. Viet Nam also shares the view that these issues are intimately linked with such other important issues as the maintenance of international peace and security, non-use or threat of use of force in international relations, peaceful settlement of disputes and States’ legitimate rights to self-defense. I believe that while we can all agree about the lofty objectives and the ideals of this undertaking, it is natural as in all international conferences, that we also have to discuss ways to find the balance among these issues to arrive at an effective and strong mechanism.

Regarding the current draft text, I wish to highlight a number of issues:

First, the Arms Trade Treaty should be balanced, non-discriminatory. It should also be realistic and effective in preventing illicit trade of conventional arms. To ensure universal adherence, the ATT should be negotiated in a transparent and open manner that takes into account legitimate concerned parties. All its decisions, including the final text of the ATT, must be considered and adopted by consensus.

Second, ATT should ensure the exercise of the legitimate right of states to manufacture, export, import and maintain conventional arms for self-defense. It should uphold basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for state sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

Third, the criteria of international transfer of conventional arms must be balanced, objective and clear to establish common standards that are acceptable to
all and the purpose of the Treaty is to prevent illicit trade of conventional arms. In this spirit, Viet Nam holds the view that the basis of assessment of conventional arms transfer should be further streamlined.

*Fourth*, the ATT’s scope must be reasonable and proper to ensure consistency and effectiveness in ATT implementation. Viet Nam views that the scope should cover 7 categories of weapons, as specified in the UN Register of Conventional Arms, and small arms and light weapons. Ammunitions, parts and components, and technology should not be incorporated in ATT as these are diverse and complex issues that are open to various interpretations, and as such, would make the implementation process too complicated and inconsistent, creating unnecessary burdens for national development. Viet Nam also support the call for clearer definitions of those categories of weapons for consistent implementation.

*Fifth*, for an effective, consistent and non-discriminatory implementation, ATT should not provide specific, detailed regulations, but general guidelines for the framework and mechanism of implementation of each state, taking into consideration the different capabilities of states. There should be a balance between the need for transparency and legitimate security needs of states in its provisions on transparency mechanism, including regulations on reporting responsibility of states, which are established in accordance with the primary objective of ATT, namely to prevent illicit transfer of conventional arms. Overlapping and complicated reporting mechanism would create unnecessary burden for States Parties, especially developing ones. It is our view that to ensure the universality of the Treaty, the reporting mechanism should be based on a voluntary basis.

Mr. President,

Viet Nam will make detailed proposals later during the negotiation process. As a responsible member of the international community, Viet Nam will participate in an active and constructive manner in the Conference, together with other states in striving for a legally binding international instrument to minimize consequences of illicit transfers of arms, contributing to international peace, security and stability in the region and in the world.

Thank you for your kind attention./.