STATEMENT

BY

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THE FINAL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

New York
18 March 2013
Mr. President

Zambia is taking the floor for the first time I wish to begin by joining earlier speakers to congratulate you on your election as President of this historical final conference which has been convened to finalise a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer, import and export of conventional weapons. Zambia is convinced that under your distinguished leadership the Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty will be a success. My delegation also takes cognizance of the Draft of the Arms Trade Treaty and other documentation prepared for the Final conference which we do acknowledge as a good basis for final discussion by the various States gathered here.

Zambia remains a keen supporter of establishing a robust Arms Trade Treaty and hopes that this Final Conference will deliver sufficient input to come up with an agreed document on which member countries will arrive at consensus. Mr. President, my delegation is happy to note that we are building on the progress made in the last Diplomatic Conference of July 2012. However we are still alerted by the non-inclusion of AMMUNITION in the SCOPE of the draft of the Arms Trade Treaty which remains the bed rock of the various conflicts, especially in Africa.

Zambia is still concerned about the manner AMMUNITION has been drafted in Article 6 'para' 4 and it is our submission and strong appeal that this item is reflected in the SCOPE as earlier alluded. My delegation is pleased to assure you of its full cooperation and assistance in this onerous task of achieving a common goal toward regulation of trade and transfer of conventional arms.
My delegation is committed to constructive dialogue that will see the realisation of a universal and balanced Treaty to regulate international trade and transfer of conventional arms. Zambia is convinced that judging by the last outcome of the Diplomatic Conference; this Conference is likely to produce a treaty that will accommodate the various views and aspirations of all State parties.

Mr. President, I wish to assure you of the cooperation of My Delegation. Zambia is interested in the work of this conference because the African Continent suffers greatly from the effects of irresponsible and illegal transfer of conventional arms. It is our hope that this Final Conference will provide us with a legally binding instrument on conventional arms trade, especially that it is our responsibility to leave a legacy of a well regulated global arms treaty for the future generation. It is my ardent hope that this matter will be drawn to its conclusion during this conference.

In conclusion Mr. President, on behalf of My Delegation, we would like to reiterate our unwavering support during the deliberations in this Conference. I am confident that under your able leadership, we will be able, together to come up with a good and acceptable document. I thank you.