Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Let me address the issue of public reporting in Article 10.

The following countries have expressed their willingness to join this proposal: Costa Rica, Japan, Austria, Belgium, Cote d’Ivoire, Benin, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom and my own country Lithuania.

We would like to propose the following amendments to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 10 “Reporting and Recordkeeping”.

In the last sentence of paragraph 4 we propose to add words “and public” after “made available” so the sentence would read “Reports shall be made available and public and distributed to States Parties by the secretariat”.

In the second sentence of paragraph 5, we propose to add words “and public” after “made available” so the sentence would read “Reports shall be made available and public and distributed to States Parties by the secretariat”.

Since I have the floor, let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

Lithuania has long been supportive to increasing transparency in disarmament and arms control forums. While Article 10 of the July 26 ATT draft contains provisions on initial and annual reporting, it lacks a clear reference that reports by States Parties should be made available to the public. In practice, this might mean that although all States Parties can consult such reports, they would not be considered a “public source”, which could severely limit their use in the field of research, statistics, and academic work.

The national reports submitted by States Parties/Participating States are already publicly available for most conventional arms control and disarmament instruments, including the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (Compliance mechanisms and Additional Protocols II and V), UN Programme of Action on Small arms and light weapons, UN Register for Conventional Arms and Report on Military Expenditures.

We believe that this small amendment in Article 10 will bring the draft ATT in line with the established practice and would contribute to promoting transparency in arms trade and thus building confidence among States.

Thank you.