Final UN Conference on the ATT
Statement delivered by Ghana on behalf of 103 States

New York, 25 March 2013

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the following States:

- Albania
- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Belize
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chile
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- The European Union and its Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom

- Fiji
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Iceland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Liechtenstein
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mexico
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- New Zealand
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Rwanda
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Suriname
- Switzerland
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turkey
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Zambia
Mr. President,

We would like to thank you for the text you have prepared and acknowledge your tireless efforts and those of the Facilitators to try and bridge divergent positions. This text contains improvements such as the inclusion of transnational organized crime in the risk assessment, the introduction of a separate article on diversion, the inclusion of a knowledge-based standard in prohibitions, and improved provisions on the Conference of State Parties. These are movements in the right direction.

However, certain central aspects of the draft Treaty text circulated on 22 March 2013 have not met our expectations and some seem to be a step backwards from earlier language. Without entering into a drafting exercise, we would like to highlight some of our major common concerns:

The scope of the Treaty has to be comprehensive. The provisions regarding small arms and light weapons seem less comprehensive, as the current text does not contain a common reference point of what small arms and light weapons are. Munitions, ammunition, parts and components need to be brought more fully into the Treaty. The definition of transfer should be comprehensive enough to encompass all types of transfers.

The text still needs to better reflect existing international legal norms and standards. The provision on prohibitions must capture all war crimes and systematic human rights violations.

We need the provisions on exports’ assessments to prevent the authorization of transfers of conventional arms where there is a substantial risk of serious violations of international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, or if those transfers could be diverted to the illicit market and to unauthorized end-users.

We also need to address loopholes regarding the implementation of the Treaty, and its relationship with other instruments, in order not to undermine the overall objectives of this Treaty. In addition, the Treaty should enhance transparency and strengthen accountability by making key information publicly available.

Lastly, we consider that the Final Provisions should more accurately reflect the international law of treaties.

Without being exhaustive, these issues must be addressed to produce a strong and effective Treaty which lives up to the expectations expressed by the overwhelming majority of States.

We must secure the improvements to the text that will deliver the strong Arms Trade Treaty that we seek, so that the Treaty has a positive impact on the ground. We will be held accountable for it by the international community.

We affirm our commitment to work constructively with all Member States, with you and your team, and with your Facilitators, to achieve this objective, and we look forward to receiving a stronger text on 27 March.

Thank you.