Main Committee I: Preamble/ Principles
Chairman’s paper

17 July 2012 -10h00 AM
This paperl proposal is presented under my own responsibility as a Chair of the Committee:

_ To serve as a basis for further consideration and negotiations in order to, hopefully, facilitate an agreement;
_ Without prejudice to the positions/views and proposals of all delegations on which I built this proposal;
_ Bearing in mind the mandate of the President of the Conference and the outcome of his consultations aiming at facilitating agreement on a text of the treaty;

Bearing in mind that agreement will take into account possible agreements on other elements of the Treaty.

Preamble
The States Parties to this Treaty

1. **Recognising** the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade of conventional arms and related items;

2. **Recalling** that the Charter of the United Nations promotes the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources;

3. **Underlining** the need to prevent, and combat the illicit trade of conventional arms and to prevent their diversion;

4. **Recognising** the sovereign right of States to regulate transfers that take place exclusively within their territory pursuant to their own legal or constitutional systems;

5. **Noting** the absence of commonly agreed global standards for the international transfer of conventional arms;

6. **acknowledging** that peace and security, development and human rights are the foundations for collective security,

7. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions and documents of the General assembly, and the United Nations Disarmament Commission relating to conventional arms;

8. **Recognizing** the contribution made by the 2001 UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as the 2001 Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in Firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

9. **Recognizing** that the absence of commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms that address, inter alia, the problems relating to the unregulated trade of conventional arms and their diversion to the illicit market is a contributory factor to armed
conflict, serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, the
displacement of people, armed violence, gender based violence, organized crime and
terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and
sustainable social and economic development;

10. Mindful of the concerns regarding the potential impact of unregulated trade of
conventional arms on sustainable development and the possibility of furthering corrupt
practices;

11. Resolved to do their utmost to provide assistance to the victims of armed conflict,
including through appropriate medical care, rehabilitation, and social and economic
reintegration;

12. Bearing in mind that women and children are particularly vulnerable in situations of
conflict and armed violence

13. Bearing in mind that existing national, regional and subregional best practices and
instruments on the international transfer of conventional arms can play an important role in
furthering the goals and objectives of an Arms Trade Treaty;

14. Emphasising that nothing in this treaty prevents States from exercising their right to
adopt, at the national or regional levels, measures in addition to those provided in the Arms
Trade Treaty to further regulate the transfer of conventional arms to or from their territory;

**Principles**

*In pursuing the goals and objectives of the treaty States resolve to remain guided by*

1. the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

2. the rights and obligations of States under applicable international law, including
international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

3. the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with
Article 51 of the Charter;

4. the respect of territorial integrity and political independence of States;

5. the right of all peoples to self-determination;

6. the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms
for self-defence and security needs and in order to participate in peace support operations;

7. the responsibility of all States to effectively regulate and control international transfer of
conventional arms as well as the primary responsibility of all States to in establishing and
implementing their respective national export control systems;

8. the necessity to implement this treaty in an universal and non-discriminatory manner,