Statement on behalf of:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the CARICOM member states (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago), Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, the ECOWAS member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo), Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia.

Mr. Chair,

We are now entering the final week of negotiations to conclude what the United Nations General Assembly has tasked us to do; that is to “elaborate a legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms” and to “achieve a strong and robust” Arms Trade Treaty. We take the floor now to underline what our countries consider to be the very core of such a binding instrument, without which our efforts would fall significantly short of what the GA resolution has mandated. We are confident, Mr. Chair, that you will help secure this for us.

Notwithstanding the fact that a treaty could be incomplete and ineffective without many of the elements that we have discussed during this process, there are in our opinion a set of concepts that provide the backbone on which the rest of the treaty rests. Without detracting from the detailed comments made by member states throughout the course of our discussions, we wish to emphasize that an ATT will be judged by the strength of its criteria (and also its scope).

On criteria, these must, in the words of the GA resolution “address the problems relating to the unregulated trade in conventional arms and their diversion to the illicit market”. We need this treaty to prevent authorization of transfer of conventional arms where there is a substantial risk that those weapons would be, inter alia:

- used for, or facilitate, serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law;
- having a destabilizing effect or exacerbating existing conflicts;
- diverted to unauthorized end users.

Mr. Chair,

We rely on you to ensure that these elements are reflected in clear terms in our parameter section.

The scope must consequently also be wide enough to address the problems referred to in the GA resolution. We need a treaty that encompasses all conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons and ammunition.
Mr. Chair,

As a large and diverse group of states that have been consistent supporters of this process, we submit these remarks in the hope that this Conference will fulfill the mandate of GA resolution 64/48 and live up to the expectations placed on us by the world community. We go now into a weekend of work, and trust in you, the other MC Chair, and, of course, our president Ambassador Garcia Moritan, to bring us all towards this very important outcome.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.