United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
(July 2-27, 2012)
Statement by H.E. Ambassador Anastassis Mitsialis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by stating that Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier today by the Representative of the European Union. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation for Ambassador Moritan’s skilful steering of this process through four preparatory conferences. A guidance that has instilled confidence in the task at hand and a drive for cooperation in order to reach our goal, which is a robust Arms Trade Treaty. We look forward to the deliberations that will take place in the following weeks, and are confident that Ambassador Moritan will guide the process with dexterity in our effort to reach our common objective.

Greece has from the outset supported the creation of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty, aiming at regulating the international trade in conventional arms. The high standards we envisage in a future treaty will establish an effective regulatory framework for the international transfer of conventional weapons. And also, contribute towards the reduction of the illicit trade of arms, which is often linked with armed conflicts, transnational organized crime, armed violence and terrorist acts.

In order to achieve this goal, we believe that the scope of a future ATT should encompass all military conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as ammunition. This would be the lowest common denominator and we feel the conditions are ripe for achieving it.
The **parameters**, guiding states through the process must be clear and comprehensive. A process, based on a thorough risk assessment «check list», should act as a guide when reviewing items or the type of transfers covered by the scope of the treaty. The parameters incorporated in this check-list must also include compliance with Security Council Resolutions on arms embargoes, consideration of the risk of adverse effects on regional security and stability, as well as respect for international humanitarian law and human rights.

While **implementation** remains the responsibility of the signatory states to a future ATT, we believe that effective control of exports, re-export, transit and transhipment, imports and brokering, is essential if we are to properly regulate the international arms trade. The role of transparency cannot be understated and must be given priority. Enhanced public reporting on steps taken to implement the provisions of the future Treaty, as well as on the transfers permitted, is essential in safeguarding the credibility of the process and the accountability of the parties.

In order to reach our objectives for an effective ATT, we must be especially careful when elaborating on the above three elements, that is **scope, parameters and implementation**. We should set aside differences and agree on how to render operational those three elements in view of achieving a result that will have an actual impact on preventing the dissemination of conventional weapons for improper purposes. While these elements constitute the backbone of a future treaty, we must also take steps to safeguard the outcome of our efforts by ensuring that a functional and transparent mechanism is created that will enhance accountability, and assist nations, if they so desire, in the formulation of national control systems for the transfer of items covered by the scope and in accordance with the provisions of the treaty. The envisaged mechanism, in the form of an implementation support unit, should be in a position to assist states in this respect.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that an Arms Trade Treaty is in the interest of us all. During the following weeks we need to deliberate on a consistent and
pragmatic base, in order to reach an ambitious and comprehensive outcome. My country remains committed to this process, ready to actively contribute in the discussions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.