Mr. President,

My delegation congratulates you on your election as President of this historic United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. Malaysia attaches great importance to this Conference. The culmination of many years of work, discussions, and deliberation will conclude at the end of this month. It is thus up to all member states, with your guidance, leadership and skill, to bring us to an outcome that will meet our interests, concerns, and expectations. This is a challenging task, but we are confident of your ability to get us there. In this regard, please be assured of the fullest co-operation of the Malaysian delegation in your efforts.

Mr. President,

2. There is only slightly more than three weeks left for this Conference. What constitutes a successful outcome differs amongst us. For some, it is a treaty with many provisions. For others it would be a straightforward focused document. For others, it is an opportunity to exchange views and ideas for further future deliberations. Whatever the objectives or expectations that delegations may have brought with them here, the outcome needs to be one that is objective, balanced, and reflects the comments and concerns of all states.

3. In the many discussions that have taken place on a potential ATT, many views and opinions have been expressed. Some of these views see convergence, some see divergence. Member states have made it clear that there is general agreement on the need to prevent the diversion of conventional arms from the legal into the illicit market. On the other hand, member states have different views on the details of a potential ATT, whether on its scope, criteria or implementation. Nonetheless, member states have been supportive of this process. Malaysia has been supportive of this process. And we are all now here at the Conference. We need to build on this momentum. And it is thus necessary to allow substantive discussions to proceed in its course.
Mr. President,

4. Malaysia's views on the elements of a potential ATT have been documented in previous statements as well as documents compiled by the Secretariat. Allow me at this stage however to highlight the most pertinent and additional points:

4.1 Firstly – the purpose of the ATT is not to prevent the legitimate right of states to self-defence but rather to regulate the trade of conventional arms and prevent the diversion of legal arms to illegal markets;

4.2 Secondly – the ATT should essentially a legal document with a focus on trade and security issues, and hence should not be overly burdened with linkages to concepts that are immeasurable and broad in nature, or concepts that are not fully shared or agreed upon. Delegations need to consider the possibility of such concepts being included in a separate declaration or resolution which annexes a draft Treaty, but not within the Treaty itself;

4.3 Thirdly – on the issue of scope, Malaysia supports the so-called 7+1 arrangement, namely the seven categories of major weapons along with small arms and lights weapons. Additionally, we see the need for further discussion and clarification of the transactions or activities to be covered by the Treaty to ensure that states would not be overly burdened in its future implementation;

4.4 Fourthly – the criteria for application of this Treaty would need further deliberation to ensure objectivity and clarity;

4.5 Fifthly – implementation is necessarily national in nature and up to the States Parties. As a corollary, enforcement should also be at the national level. Verification of the ATT should be through confidence-building measures which would come about from the provisions for record-keeping, reporting and transparency; and

4.6 Sixthly – Malaysia is agreeable to the idea of establishing an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) but emphasise its role should be solely for administrative and logistical purposes.

Mr. President,

5. My delegation looks forward to working closely with you and other delegations during this Conference. We look forward to a successful outcome. And we look forward to a future Arms Trade Treaty that takes into consideration the views, comments and concerns expressed.

I thank you.