Mr. President:

The delegation of Nicaragua is pleased to congratulate you on your election, and to express the support of Nicaragua as we moving forward in our work toward a universally acceptable treaty. We also congratulate all those elected the presidium.

Mr. President:

Nicaragua has followed closely and with much interest the debates and interactive dialogues on this issue that have thus far taken place in the four preparatory committees. We have before us a issue that encompasses many challenges and complexities especially in terms of establishing new norms for the regulation of conventional arms.

Mr. President:

As we have previously expressed, in order to be acceptable to all, we consider that any future treaty regarding arms trade must focus on prevention and the struggle against illicit arms trade, and can in no way be discriminatory or selective. Such instrument must be fully respectful of the Principles and Purposes of the United Nations Charter, including the principles of non interference of the internal affairs of the States, and respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of all States.

Further, in conformity with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, it is an indispensable condition that the treaty must in no way affect or limit the right of States to their legitimate defence.
Mr. President:

For our delegation the criteria and parameters of a future Arms Trade Treaty must bear a close relation to all other stipulations of the Treaty. All stipulations of the Treaty, including the criteria and parameters, must conform to the Principles and Purposes of the United Nations Charter.

In this regard, we should dispense with all criteria lacking in objectivity and clarity, and which some States could easily interpret to the detriment of other States.

Mr. President:

We still observe that throughout this process many elements have been maintained which are obstacles and thus unacceptable to many member States.

Nicaragua reiterates that the section on Purposes and Objectives should establish general norms in order that all countries may carry out their conventional arms operations without impacting on sovereignty, national interests, or territorial integrity.

Mr. President:

The Treaty may in no case substitute, but rather, it should complement, national controls regarding the transfer of conventional arms, as these are the basic key elements to any arms control system. These national controls systems should include effective control of civilian arms possession and licenses, and authorizations for their export, import and transfer.
The part on Principles as a separate and independent section of any future document is of great importance for the Treaty, because the intent is that the Treaty be a binding international juridical instrument. It is also our opinion that moving more easily to make progress on the remaining aspects of the Treaty depends on the clarity, objectivity and scope of the Principles we agree to.

As regards international cooperation and assistance, in order to construct and strengthen national implementation measures and capacity for avoiding illicit arms traffic, the State Parties should extend technical, material and financial assistance, in particular to the Developing Countries.

Mr. President:

If there is any conclusion we can draw from this lengthy negotiation process, it is that there is a long road ahead of us before we can clearly identify points of convergence or arrive at an appropriate document and formulas for commitment which allow us to arrive at a consensus document.

Proposals on the features of a future TCA should represent realistic and universally acceptable goals that do not divert us from our principle objective of strengthening prevention mechanisms and struggling against illicit arms trafficking.
Due to the level of analysis and consultations necessary to examine such sensitive issues as those it contains, my delegation is still examining the new document which has been distributed. Therefore, Mr. President, we will refer to these matters at an opportune time.

We will continue to participate in the process of discussion and negotiation toward the eventual elaboration of a Treaty on Arms Trade, and reiterate that the process should continue to take place in an open and transparent manner on the basis of consensus as is reflected in Resolution 64/48, which mandated the Conference and whose objective it is to strengthen the prevention mechanisms and fight illicit arms trafficking.

Thank you.