Statement by
Director General for International Security and Disarmament
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Olexandr ALEKSANDROVYCH
at the Diplomatic Conference on Arms Trade Treaty
(2-27 July 2012, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me commend you for your exemplary role both in the preparatory process before the Diplomatic Conference and in your current endeavors.

Coming forward to the President’s suggestion, I will be brief in my remarks for two reasons. First, as it was mentioned before, Ukraine shares the position of the European Union on this subject and therefore aligned itself with its statement. Second, we have submitted our detailed national paper on ATT, which is contained in a large compendium assembled by the Secretariat. In addition, let me point out a few other things.

A changing global economy and technological & scientific developments have created new proliferation challenges in the field of arms trade. In the last several years Ukraine consistently supported the developments related to the Arms Trade Treaty. In the framework of relevant international fora we have shared views and information to encourage all parties concerned to support the concept of the ATT. At the 64th session of the UN General Assembly First Committee and during the sessions of the Open-ended Working Group established by Resolution 63/240 Ukraine actively participated in the debate substantially contributing to the thematic expert discussion on the contents of the future ATT. We focused our work in the preparatory period on internal coordination and extensive international consultation with interested parties.

Mr. Chairman,

General Assembly Resolution 64/48 foresees that the current International Conference should adopt the legally binding Arms Trade Treaty. Thus, we are entering a critical final phase of the ATT negotiation and expecting to reach a consensus on substantial and organizational issues, hopefully, by the end of this Conference. I believe that a text of the Treaty should be feasible, and we could manage a very difficult challenge before us most effectively. On this track, my
delegation will fully support continued efforts throughout this process. Thereby we all may hope that the Treaty will put an end to conflicting views on establishing global control over arms transfer.

Besides, the more states accede to the Treaty the closer we shall approach our common goal - putting international transfer of conventional arms under robust control with the aim of highlighting and preventing its illicit trade on the global level. Successful implementation of this objective by deterring the diversion of arms into the illicit market will also undermine the activities of transnational organized crime and terrorism, thus contributing to international and regional peace, security, and stability, promoting transparency and accountability in international transfers of conventional arms.

Finally, by putting in place the ATT we shall establish an obligation to each State Party to develop an effective national legal and administrative system that would ensure the strictest control over all transfers of items covered by the scope of the Treaty. Ukraine, which is a member of all export control regimes and has a very strict and well-functioning national export control system, is willing to share its expertise in this field with all UN Member States.

My delegation will be ready to take part in the detailed discussion of a text of the Arms Trade Treaty, including the one presented by the ATT President, as soon as we come down to this important business.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.