Statement

by

Ambassador Martin Sajdik
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

at the
United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty
General Exchange of Views

New York, 6 July 2012

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all congratulate you upon your election as chairman of the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. Austria is confident that, on the basis of your discussion paper, we will achieve our goal of negotiating an ambitious ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

Austria fully associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Let me highlight some points which are of particular importance from our point of view:

- We should be ambitious, i.e. negotiate a text which is legally binding, robust and effective.
- The text should reflect high standards in particular as far as international human rights law and international humanitarian law are concerned.
- The text should cover a wide range of transactions so as to effectively curb illegal and irresponsible arms trade.
- The scope of the treaty to be negotiated should be comprehensive, covering all conventional arms, including small arms, light weapons and ammunition.
- There must be an effective implementation regime which ensures transparency and takes the fight against corruption into account.

We will be pleased to provide more detail as our deliberations unfold.

Mr. Chairman,

So far in the Preparatory Process and in particular at the last session of the Preparatory Committee in February delegations have acted in a spirit of collaboration and compromise. Austria certainly will continue in that vein and we wish you and all colleagues successful negotiations and a good outcome which will enjoy the support of all stake holders of the process.

Thank you.