Statement by the Delegations of
the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Member States
at the 2012 United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

The Delegations of the CSTO Member States support the efforts aimed at developing a new international instrument in the field of conventional arms transfers.

In order to be effective, it should focus on specific goals and objectives arising from the key problems affecting the interests of all UN Member States. It remains of key importance for the 2012 UN Conference on the ATT to agree on its goals and objectives which are essential for determining its content. The main purpose of this mechanism, in our view, is to prevent the diversion of arms from legal trade to illicit traffic by strengthening or establishing, where not in place, national systems of governmental controls over arms transfers.

We believe it important that the treaty fully take into account a legitimate right of each State to self-defense provided for in the UN Charter and not infringe the right of States to legal circulation of arms and defense technologies.

We are interested in adopting at the outcome of the Conference a strong and effective, but also concise, clear and implementable document based on highest possible standards for the transfer of conventional arms. This implies specific practical measures that could contribute in their integrity to strengthening governmental controls over all types of activities related to transfers of conventional arms, primarily in the areas of higher risks of diversion of arms into illicit traffic. The document should establish general rules and principles with the modalities of their implementation to be determined by the Governments themselves based on the specific character of their national legislation and existing practice.
In the context of globalization the implementation of the document is hardly possible without developing cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels. However, a truly effective interaction in any format can only be possible when all its components, either information exchange or assistance or other aspects, are governed by the implementation of goals and objectives of the document.

We believe an essential condition of a successful operation of the future instrument is to ensure its universality, which could be achieved only within the UN framework through adoption of all substantive decisions strictly on a consensus basis.

The Delegations of the CSTO Member States look forward to a constructive work during the Conference and are open to cooperation in order to come up with a positive outcome acceptable to all.