Mr. President,

I wish to begin by congratulating you Mr. President for your well-deserved election as a President of this UN conference on Arms Trade Treaty. My delegation is confident that your vast diplomatic experience and deep knowledge in the field of multilateral negotiations would be of tremendous value for steering this conference towards the successful drafting of Arms Trade Treaty.

The world community urgently calls for commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms that address, inter alia, the problems relating to the unregulated trade of conventional arms and their diversion to the illicit market to alleviate the problem of armed conflict, organized crime and terrorism, thereby ensuring peace, stability and sustainable social and economic development.

Mr. President,

We come a long way in the process of exchanging our views and ideas in order to realize a robust ATT. Hence, significant work has been done in the preparatory processes after the adoption of GA resolution 61/89 in 2006. The time has come to show our determination in this UN Conference to write a new chapter in the history of arms trade regulations. Millions of lives and livelihoods have been perished, and serious violations of fundamental human rights have occurred due to irresponsible and illicit transfer of weapons and munitions around the troubled parts of the world. Many reports have highlighted that billions of dollars economic loss is recorded every year due to wars, civil wars, and insurgency and armed conflict. By way of concluding a ‘strong and robust’ Arms Trade Treaty, we could help reverse this process.

Nepal had an opportunity to host a Regional Seminar in 2010 in Kathmandu for the exchanges of views among countries in South and Central Asian region on ATT.
In our view, ATT should adopt the highest possible common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms while ensuring the right of all States to manufacture, develop, acquire, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self-defence and security needs.

With regard to the scope of ATT, my delegation is of the view that in addition to 7 categories identified by UN Register of Conventional Arms, small arms and light weapons and their munitions and ammunition must be a part of an ATT. Import, export, brokering, transit and transshipment and technology transfer should also be covered by ATT.

Mr. President,

Based on the work that we have done in the past beginning from 2006, we need to move forward. The compilation of views from member states on the elements of an arms trade treaty has also served the purpose of understanding each other’s views in a clear manner. This would help expediting negotiation processes.

Negotiation process must be done in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. Consensus is the hallow we all cherish for but we should not forget that it requires flexibilities and cooperation of all. We also have to be aware of time limit within which we should not fail to conclude a final text of arms trade treaty.

Each state party shall take the responsibility of implementation of treaty by translating treaty provisions into national legislation. However, the provision of annual reporting should be made an integral part of treaty for the assessment of implementation by the member states. In the same vein, there should be adequate provision of international assistance for national capacity building for effective implementation of the treaty. My delegation supports the view that effective implementation is required an Implementation Support Unit which constantly follows-up on the basis of annual reporting and it would also work as a conduit for channeling international assistance to member states which are in need of such assistance for building their national capacity.

Mr. President,

We have come to the defining moment. A robust ATT would contribute to preventing the illicit trade of conventional arms including small arms and light weapons and related items and thereby save millions of lives from the scourge of armed conflicts and release some resources for peace, prosperity and development.

I thank you.