CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at the High Level Segment at the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty

New York, 3 July, 2012
Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

Firstly, I would to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the election to the post of the President of the Conference and let me assure you that Czech delegation will continue to offer you every support and cooperation during this important Conference. Czech Republic fully associates itself with statement by the European Union.

It is my great honour to speak here in New York on behalf of the Czech Republic at this extraordinary event dedicated to one of the most important issues of current world, responsible trade in arms. Delegations gathered here having common goal that is negotiating legally binding and globally applicable Arms Trade Treaty which will serve as a strong and efficient instrument for regulation of legal trade in conventional arms.

The Czech Republic has certain expectations regarding level playing field created by possible future adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. It is clear that the Czech Republic does see the argument that the trade in arms is directly or indirectly connected to grave risks which should be tackled by international community anyway. Those risks are rigorously assessed by control system applied in the Czech Republic.

From the beginning of the process, the Czech Republic constantly supported the idea of adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty which will establish the highest possible common international standards to regulate international trade in conventional weapons. We do think that future Arms Trade Treaty should specify application of different control measures for different types of arms transfers.

Mr. Chairman,

We highly appreciate the role you have played in the process leading to the UN Conference and we fully support principles of your Draft Paper. The Czech Republic would also like to stress active role of the European Union in advocating and negotiating the Arms Trade Treaty and to recall the Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of the European
Union from June 2012 which expressed general principles of the European Union’s position towards the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude my short intervention here by expressing strong belief that four weeks of negotiations will ultimately bear the fruits and negotiating parties will succeed in drafting broadly acceptable Arms Trade Treaty which will develop in highly efficient and practical global system contributing to the reduction of human suffering, violations of human rights and actions undermining peace, security and regional stability.

Thank you.