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Statement

By

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GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SMALL ARMS

At the

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

New York,
11th-15th July, 2011
Mr. Chairman,

Ghana extends its hearty greetings to you and re-iterates her conviction that under your distinguished leadership, this conference will be as successful as the previous sessions.

Ghana associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate from Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group.

Ghana remains a keen supporter of a robust arms trade treaty and hopes that this PrepCom will deliver sufficient inputs as before to enable substantial progress to be made in proposing a text for negotiations by the end of the week. The world is awaiting an Arms Trade Treaty that is robust enough to save lives, respect human and people’s rights and minimize casualties arising out of any irresponsible transfer of conventional weapons.

Ghana is grateful to the Chair for the Informal Papers and hopes that issues such as manufacture under license and technology transfer will receive sufficient attention at this PrepCom. My delegation trusts that reporting requirements for licenses granted and transfers executed will be further strengthened in the course of our discussions this week.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased to submit Ghana’s views on the Chair’s implementation paper as follows:

- On brokering, Ghana observes that brokering provisions are currently included only within provisions relating to enforcement and there is no explicit obligation on states to license arms brokering transactions.

- We believe that it is important to tackle such issues to reduce the latitude to states and minimize the risks of ongoing loopholes and inconsistencies in state controls.

- In this regard, we suggest that brokering be included in the section dealing with export, import and transit and should be couched in the same terms.

- While we endorse the Chair’s text on implementation support unit (ISU) we urge that consideration be given to the ISU standing as an independent, stand-alone body.

- The ISU must also be tasked to assist states in producing comprehensive national reports, in identifying gaps in national control systems and in implementing the Treaty.

Finally, Ghana considers the final provisions contained in the Chair’s paper as constructive. Nevertheless, Ghana believes that issues such as withdrawal procedures; treaty duration and amendments; Assembly of States Parties; review process; consultation and dispute resolution, which may simply be seen as administrative details, need to be considered and viewed as vital.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.