Statement of the delegation of the Netherlands at the opening session of the third session of the ATT prepcom, 11th of July 2011

Pronounced by Ambassador Paul van den IJssel

Mr Chairman,

The Netherlands, while fully aligning itself to the statement delivered by the EU this morning, would like to make some general remarks on how we see the state of play in the ATT process. Mr Chairman we would like to express our gratitude to you for circulating papers on implementation and other provisions. These papers are a good basis to proceed our work now and will help us to achieve our goal in 2012.

Both adequate implementation at a national level and adequate application of the treaty are fundamental elements in order to achieve our common goal: a transparent worldwide trade regime in conventional weapons and their ammunition, that contributes to peace and stability, the promotion of human rights and a decrease of illegal trade.

We are pleasantly surprised by your ambitious proposals. To actually make progress in this complex sensitive field we need to be ambitious and courageous indeed. We particularly appreciate the attention towards transparency in the paper. This element is of great importance for the Netherlands, being the nucleus of the effectivity of a future ATT. It was and is a priority for the Netherlands.

The Netherlands, together with our EU partners, has a strong transparency mechanism in place, in combination with a vibrant defence industry. It shows that transparency and a clear export control regime does not necessarily collide with security and trade interests nor with the commercial needs of a national defence industry.

We are convinced that based on the work already done so far and under your able chairmanship it will be possible to achieve agreement in 2012 on a robust and strong treaty, benefiting the entire international community.