Thank you Mr Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank you for the papers you have issued to guide our work this week on implementation and final provisions, and allow me to convey my delegation's full support to your continued efforts throughout this process. The UK is fully aligned with the statement of the EU.

The UK regards implementation as a key component in any international instrument. It will be the success or ruin of our common endeavours. It is how we will translate the words we agree into actions on the ground. In the final analysis, we will not be judged by our words, but how we put them into action.

For our part, the UK agrees with the thrust of your paper in that any implementation must be done at the national level. The creation of a transparent, predictable and effective national authorising system for exports is fully supported by the UK and lies at the heart of what we are trying to achieve. This will require each state to establish a national control list. Coupled with the broad scope of the Treaty, these control lists will be important in assessing how the Treaty is being applied by its members.

It is also important here to mention the obligations that are placed on importers as well as exporters. This shared responsibility under the ATT to ensure arms transfers are properly controlled and not diverted to the illicit market needs to remain a key factor in any ATT.
On transfer denials, whilst we see the logic of reporting on denials to other State Parties, we feel that it is unworkable at this stage.

Transparency and Reporting are essential features for the monitoring of implementation of treaty commitments. Regular reporting of authorisations on arms exports along with details on quantity and type will be extremely valuable. It may also be necessary to report on any disputes States have had over the denial of a transfer.

Mr Chairman,

In the section entitled Enforcement we are of the view that the theme of international co-operation should run throughout this part. States will need assistance to help with the national enforcement of their obligations either via direct assistance or by using existing development assistance mechanisms where applicable.

Finally, on the Implementation Support Unit, we believe that a small, focussed unit, to provide a knowledge base and repository for reports should be the way forward. One key function for the ISU will be the matching of needs and resources. It is also our view that those support units that work best have been created by the member states to serve the member states.

Mr Chairman,

These are our initial headline comments on your implementation paper. We will revert later in the debate with some more concrete and detailed comments.

Thank you.