Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you on the excellent manner in which you are conducting these proceedings.
Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Grenada attaches immense importance to the conclusion of an Arms Trade Treaty. It is for this reason that we support the sentiments expressed by Barbados on behalf of CARICOM and Jamaica and the technical comments made by Trinidad and Tobago on your draft paper on implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Grenada is a party to a number of international treaties on disarmament because of its deep belief in the preservation of international peace and security. Correspondingly, we are also convinced that the absence of an international treaty to regulate the trade in conventional weapons including Small Arms and Light Weapons and Ammunition is also a threat to the preservation of International peace and security and human development.

Consequently, Grenada is hopeful that the Preparatory Committee agrees on these crucial elements for inclusion into the Arms Trade Treaty when negotiations take place during the conference in 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

The provisions relating to implementation in any treaty must be sound, clear and effective. Without a sound implementation regime any international legal instrument would be weak or useless.

Mr. Chairman,

It is for this reason that we support the inclusion in your paper of the need for the establishment of a unit or secretariat to assist state parties in implementing the obligations which flow from the Arms Trade Treaty.

We however wish to support the call made by CARICOM and other member states that the unit be independent and funded by states parties which is in keeping with international practice as far as treaty bodies are concerned.

Mr. Chairman,

Whilst recognizing that there are financial costs involved, states should look at the importance of an independent secretariat in ensuring the effective implementation of the treaty.

Although there are entities within the United Nations system which have been sighted as possible alternatives to perform the functions of the implementation support unit, we are concerned that non-state parties may not agree to fund the entity because they are not parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
Mr. Chairman,

My country and my region has witnessed negative social and economic consequences resulting from the absence of a legally binding instrument to regulate the trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons which are part of the family of conventional weapons.

Accordingly, individuals involved in the import, export and brokering of arms should be held accountable if they should be found in violation of treaty obligations resulting in conventional weapons destined for legal markets being diverted to the illicit market.

Grenada therefore supports the inclusion in your paper on provisions concerning enforcement which requires states parties to enact domestic legislation to criminalise offences in violation of the statute.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Grenada will continue to remain actively involved in the process leading up to the UN conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in 2012 and you could rest assured of our full support.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.