Mr Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor. Like other delegations who have expressed their appreciation for your efforts, Singapore is grateful for your endeavours in facilitating our discussions on an ATT.

1. Singapore supports the work of the UN towards establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms through an ATT. In this regard, Singapore welcomes the progress made to date, from the Open-ended Working Group to the Preparatory Committees.

2. Singapore believes that an ATT should not undermine the primary responsibility of national authorities in controlling the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. States should be able to decide for themselves how to implement their respective national export control systems, based on individual States’ international obligations and specific requirements.

3. We wish to provide some preliminary comments to the Chairman’s draft paper on implementation:

4. First, under “Section C: Transit” and “Section E: Record Keeping, Reporting and Transparency”, it is important to note that not all States currently possess the capacity to implement the full range of controls envisaged in these sections. This may result in practical constraints for States to comply with these obligations. Many States, particularly smaller States, are already hard-pressed to fulfil their existing treaty obligations. It is therefore unclear whether these sections would contribute to the universality of the treaty. We should strive for a treaty that is practical, effective and capable of being implemented. Otherwise we run the risk of developing an instrument that is too complex and onerous to receive widespread support from States.

5. Second, under “Section D: Transfer Denials”, we are of the view
that States should be encouraged to exchange only relevant information that would aid in the curbing of illicit arms trade, through appropriate channels and on a voluntary basis. While decisions pertaining to the granting or denial of permits should be taken by States in a considered manner, we should be mindful there are sensitivities involved in the sharing of such information, which may also affect the national security of other States.

6. **Third**, under “**Section G: Enforcement**”, we propose the removal of paragraph 29. As previously expressed by other States, there is no consensus on whether an ATT is the right instrument to effectively address the issues of corruption and money-laundering.

Singapore is prepared to participate fully in the discussions of this Preparatory Committee, and contribute to developing an ATT that is well-balanced, non-discriminatory and universally accepted.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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