Thank you Mr. Chair.

Let me from the outset congratulate you on your skillful chairmanship.

Mr. Chair, the Government of St. Lucia attaches great significance and importance to the conclusion of an ATT. Consequently, we are fully supportive of the sentiments expressed by Barbados on behalf of CARICOM, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. We are also supportive of the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Bahamas, Chile, Columbia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

Mr. Chair, it is our belief, that, the irresponsible transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and associated ammunition presents a most serious threat to the security of St. Lucia. It is also my delegation’s belief that, its consequence is potentially one of the greatest threats to human security which negatively impacts peace, security and socio-economic development in our Small Island Developing State (SIDS). We have also recognized the increasing impact of the illicit trade of SALW and associated ammunition on gender based violence.

Mr. Chair, the impact of armed violence is no stranger to St. Lucia and by extension; the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Indeed, it is a truism that SALW are instrumental in more than seventy percent (70%) of murders in Saint Lucia and other regional States.

The goal of the ATT to regulate the illicit or irresponsible traded arms and ammunition speaks to the hearts and minds of citizens in Saint Lucia. St. Lucia recognizes that a comprehensive globally binding ATT, regulating international trade in conventional arms and based on the highest possible international standards, as an unavoidable priority.
St. Lucia is of the view that although much is being implemented regionally, through CARICOM and the regional NGO community; we strongly believe that these efforts are not self sufficient and needs to be complemented by common international standards which is envisaged in a future ATT.

My delegation is of the view that the implementation of an ATT is a responsibility to be shared among the producing, selling, transit and destination states. Importantly too, measures to control relevant brokering activities should be a fundamental component of the ATT.

Saint Lucia acknowledges that an effective ATT must provide for international cooperation and assistance for developing states to meet their treaty obligations in order to implement the treaty.

Mr. Chair, my delegation recognizes that international cooperation and assistance should be a critical element of a future ATT, including the need for strengthening capabilities and institutional capacity building in implementing the treaty.

It is our view that an effective ATT should ensure transparency through states’ annual reporting, and has effective mechanisms to monitor states compliance and provides mechanisms for disputes resolution.

Similar to the Jamaican delegation we recognize the importance of reporting. An effective ATT needs to strike the balance between reporting and national states capacity to report. A proposal is to consolidate the reporting requirements under the various SALW treaties. This is to ensure that the ATT reporting does not
conflict with other reporting instruments which may promote burdensome reporting requirements.

Mr. Chair, my country does support strong national implementation mechanisms but it is also our view, that it is imperative for the effective implementation of the ATT; there should be an independent Implementation Support Unit. The scope of work of the Implementation Support Unit should be clear and focus.

As recent as two weeks ago CARICOM heads of Government signed the CARICOM Declaration on SALW. Signatories to the Declaration are tasked with ensuring that they take appropriate national, regional and international measures aimed at addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons.

An ATT is an essential and necessary mechanism to promote and implement international peace and security which is at the heart of the UN Charter.

In Conclusion, Mr. Chair, Saint Lucia will continue to support all dimensions of the ATT process. Please be assured of St. Lucia’s continued and whole hearted support in the remaining activities leading up to the UN ATT Conference in 2012, as well as the implementation of the ATT thereafter.

Thank You Mr. Chair.