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THIRD SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS PREPERATORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

STATEMENT

BY

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ON THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

12 July, 2011
New York, NY
Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to begin by commending you, Mr. Chairman, for the great work you have done in steering these discussions in a progressive manner. The Process has continued to make steady progress and I wish to reiterate my delegation’s continued participation and support in ensuring a fruitful outcome is achieved within the stipulated time frame.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the Statement made on behalf of the African Group by the delegation of Nigeria at the beginning of the meeting and reaffirms its desire to see a strong and robust Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation also thanks you for the papers you circulated in preparation for this session of the Preparatory Committee – and indeed the previous sessions - and acknowledges them as a good basis for further discussion by States. I will now give a preliminary reaction of my delegation to the paper you circulated.

Mr. Chairman, while we agree that implementation must be at national level, let us bear in mind the several limitations many capacity challenged States will face in executing this task. As we have stated before, the ATT will bring on board several countries that do not have expert control systems or that have underdeveloped systems, and therefore the effective implementation of the treaty will depend largely on states cooperating with and assisting each other. In this regard, Zambia would support the establishment of a small, focused and independent Implementation Support Unit to enhance implementation.
On the provisions under transit - as a country that is more of a transit state than a large importer or exporter. Zambia would like to see text that would not put excessive responsibility on transit States. It would be challenging for States with underdeveloped capacities to record every transit through their territory and as such would favour less strong language on this element. In our considered view, the burden of such requirements should be on the exporting State rather than on the transit State.

On the record keeping, reporting and transparency my delegation is of the view that records should be kept for as long as is necessary and utilizing a template that is simple, verifiable and easily comparable across jurisdiction. Zambia is also of the view that such transparency should not compromise legitimate national security issues. We also agree that the ISU would be the repository of such records.

Mr. Chairman, under final provisions, we remain open to further discussion and at this juncture would support a simple numerical figure for entry into force. My delegation will be making more detailed interventions later in the week.

I thank you.