Mr. Chairman,

We have reviewed the final provisions section of the Chairman's paper and it is evident that, as was the case with other parts of the document, that much thought has been put into the compiling of this set of provisions. We will comment this afternoon on what in our view are some of the key provisions, while we prefer not to make reference to specific drafting issues which will, no doubt, require in depth deliberation at a later stage of this process.
It is clear that the provision on **entry into force** of the treaty is of substantial importance. This provision, which reflects standard legal treaty language, will determine the relevance of the ATT as an international instrument. Without getting into a discussion regarding specific numbers at this stage, it is my delegation's view that for the treaty to fulfill its purpose, entry into force should require a reasonable number of ratifying states. This being said, the number of ratifying states required in this context should not create a hurdle so high so as to result in a treaty which will not enter into force.

On the issue of amendments to the convention, we recall that during the discussions this week as well as on previous occasions, many states stressed that consensus is a key factor in the negotiation leading to a future ATT. It is our understanding that this principle of consensus is relevant, and therefore should also be applied, to amendments to the treaty.

On the issue of **dispute settlement**, we are of the view that your suggested language presents a balanced approach, and we feel comfortable that the provision as it stands may serve as a good basis for moving forward.

Thank you.