Mr Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation is taking the floor to highlight some specific issues on your draft text, which has been the very reasonable basis guiding our deliberations. Although it is generally acclaimed that uneasy they say lies the head that wears the crown, your case is the reverse as your text and your Chairmanship has continued to receive favourable remarks and acceptance.

2. To specifics, Mr Chair, the Nigerian delegation agrees with previous speakers on the issue that brokering and law enforcement are an integral part of the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. We therefore thank your efforts in the inclusion of these appropriately in your text.

3. However, like some other delegations, Nigeria too is of the view that the agenda items of corruption and cooperation and assistance should be delinked and treated as separate sub-heads. The thinking here is that corruption would further play an important (negative though) role in the overall implementation of the provisions of the treaty, while not losing sight of the fact that cases of corrupt practices are likely to come into play in the transfer denials as well as arms transfers.

4. In the same vein, based on the capacity concerns expressed repeatedly by most of the delegations, particularly by small and developing states, the issue of cooperation and assistance should make another sub-head. It would be begging the question to state that limited capacity would definitely affect the implementation of the provisions of the treaty. We therefore would urge the chair to have a specific sub-head for cooperation and assistance with the needed provisions.

5. We would also support, as contained in your draft text, the establishment of an independent support unit, which functions and composition, however the size, should be the responsibility of States Parties. The Nigerian delegation, haven witnessed the successes recorded by Implementation Support Units (ISUs) in some other multilateral instruments, welcomes such establishment, if only to serve as repository for record keeping and providing technical support.
Mr Chair,

6. To the aspect of final provisions in your text, we also agree with the previous speakers on the importance that is attached to final provisions in treaties and other multilateral instruments, none the less the ATT, as these are the technical elements that make or mar such instruments.

7. The Nigerian delegation does not have much of a problem with your proposed provisions, bearing in mind that we are yet to come to a treaty-text drafting exercise. In fact, your ingenuity in the draft text is not in doubt. However, for purposes of emphasis and believing that the man who wears the shoe is he that knows where it hurts most, the Nigerian delegation would very much welcome an early entry into force of the treaty with a view to immediately regulating the global arms trade. Based on this consideration, we would agree with earlier suggestions of 30 or even 40 ratifications to enable an early entry into force, without prejudice to whether such ratifications have major exporting and or producing states.

8. Having said these, mr Chairman, allow me to conclude by noting that although too many cooks are said to spoil the broth, the many delegations involved in this ATT making process, are however, making it possible for us to, ultimately, make a good meal.

9. Thank you.