INTERVENTION BY

H.E. MR. JOSEPH GODDARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BARBADOS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
ARMS TRADE TREATY

JULY 15, 2011

United Nations Headquarters
New York  

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Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have the honour to present some initial views on the text on behalf of CARICOM.

- CARICOM welcomes your draft papers of July 14 and finds them to be reflective of the positions of delegations and are a useful reference for our continued discussions.
- In the preambular section CARICOM commends the inclusion of gender-based violence; we also commend its inclusion in the section on goals and objectives of the treaty.
- We again express grave concern that armed violence has not been included in the preamble.
- We share the view, which is now reflected, that the treaty should be universal in application. This is essential if the future ATT is to be effective in regulating the global trade in arms.
- CARICOM has consistently advocated for the inclusion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition in the scope of the ATT, and we are pleased that they are retained in the papers. Our socio-economic challenges are further compounded by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons and ammunition. The ATT should mitigate against this threat.
- In the section on goals and objectives we would wish to see the inclusion of a prohibition on the transfer of arms to non-state armed groups.
- We are concerned that in the chapeau of Section 5 on Criteria, obligations appear to be placed squarely on the exporting state and there are no corresponding requirements for import, transit or transshipment states.
- We also wish to signal our support for the proposal to replace “serious” with “grave and systematic” before ‘violations of international human rights law’ at B 4 of the same section.
- We welcome the inclusion of brokering as a transaction to be covered by the national authorization system.
• CARICOM is of the view that it should be mandatory for authorizing documents to accompany all shipments, and mandatory for details of the authorization to be made available to transit and transshipment states. In this regard, we propose the deletion of the phrase “upon request” at paragraph 4 of the Authorization Systems section of the paper.

• In respect of recordkeeping we believe that records should be kept for a minimum of twenty years.

• We have concerns about the 180-day deadline for the submission of the initial report of States Parties on measures to implement the treaty. We can anticipate that despite best intentions, the capacity limitations, particularly of small states, will make it challenging to achieve this.

• We would appreciate clarification on the distinction between jurisdiction and control as reflected presently in the first and second paragraphs of the Enforcement section.

• International cooperation will be critical in the effective implementation of the treaty especially for small states such as those of CARICOM.

• We would like to see the inclusion of maritime security as an area of priority for international assistance.

• We reiterate that for the Implementation Support Unit to be effective it must be independent and should be funded by States Parties.

• CARICOM supports the early entry into force of the treaty.

• We are of the view that the section on Consultation at Part I of the Final Provisions needs further work to achieve a better balance. The present formulation does not adequately cover issues that may arise particularly from transfer denials.

• And finally, Section K on “Relations with States not Party to this Treaty” should address the potential loophole of trade between States Parties and States not Party to the Treaty.
I thank you, Mr. Chairman.