Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

First let me thank you on behalf of the Israeli delegation for the new draft you have provided us yesterday and for all your persistent efforts and useful contributions introduced during the whole process of the preparatory discussions. Following an initial reading of the Chairman's Draft Paper, it seems that there has been certain progress on some of the issues while other equally important issues still have some way to go before agreement can be achieved. So as not to take up too much of this group's precious time, which is running out as we speak, I will mention but a few of the issues which in our view require some further work.

With regard to the separation of the Preamble from the section on Principles, we are not quite sure that this is neither necessary nor useful. The result is that both sections include paragraphs which by their nature and language are paragraphs that fit to be "preambular" paragraphs.

Mr. Chairman,
On the issue of victim assistance in the Chairman’s paper we wish to reiterate what has already been widely mentioned by many other delegations during this week and in previous sessions. The ATT is an international agreement designed to set a basis for common standards for national regulation of the legitimate international trade in arms. While the issue of victim assistance is a serious issue warranting consideration, the ATT in our view does not provide the appropriate framework to do so.

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 the consensus principle is a key factor in the negotiation leading to a future ATT. Thus we find it important to reiterate our view that maintaining consensus is also relevant in this context, and therefore should also be applied to amendments to the treaty.

Regarding the provision on Dispute Settlement – we were quite content with it as it appeared in the previous Chairman’s draft paper. As a result we are of the view that new sections J2 and J3 are therefore redundant.

The new added sections on Relations with states not party to a treaty (section K) and relationship of the ATT with other agreements or instruments (section L) in our view should be studied more carefully. The first question that we would like to consider is their overall necessity. For instance, the encouraging of states not yet party to join the treaty may be more fitting for a decision of the Assembly of States Parties and not part of the treaty. Furthermore we are not sure whether paragraph L is necessary either.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

We are hopeful that your ongoing efforts leading up to the UN ATT Conference in 2012 will enable this group to resolve the difficult issues which remain, and I wish to assure you of my delegations continued and whole hearted support in this challenging effort.

Thank you.