Mr Chairman,

As we come to the close of the substantive part of the Preparatory Committee's work, we have before us a paper which, drawn up on your own authority, contains many elements that will be needed in an eventual ATT. Although this has not been a drafting process we appreciate the efforts you have made to listen to delegations and reflect their views.

It is a wide ranging document that gives us much food for thought as we move towards the Diplomatic Conference next year. Not everyone agrees with all aspects and divergent views remain. The UK has always called for a robust treaty and we believe that the chairs paper is a fair reflection of those elements that would be needed to attain the highest possible common international standards for regulating the trade in conventional weapons. That is the significant accomplishment of our work to date.

Mr Chairman,

For the UK we understand that as this phase of our work comes to a close, another one opens and the next phase we will enter is that of negotiation and there is a lot of work still to do as we converge towards a consensual ATT. We have always advocated a short, simple, easy to implement treaty and we stand by that. Delegations will have to show certain flexibility and understanding of each others national positions and concerns if we are to succeed. There is no doubt of the challenges ahead but what you have provided should be considered as solid foundation for the next phase.

Mr Chairman,

Along with the other countries of the P5 we reaffirmed earlier this week our support for your continued role in this process up to and including at the diplomatic conference next year. We will endeavour to assist you as best we can, flexibly and constructively, to achieve the robust and effective ATT that the UK has long championed.

Thank you.