Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me express our deep satisfaction at seeing you preside over this meeting and our conviction that under your able leadership we will succeed in steering our deliberations forward smoothly. You may be assured of my delegation's full support during this week and later in July.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel is of the view that the ATT negotiations should serve as an appropriate and relevant forum to codify norms addressing the trade in arms. It is Israel's view that these
negotiations could eventually lead to the creation of a good instrument provided that all participants work constructively towards a shared goal and certain principles, accepted by all states.

As the ATT aims at creating a global and comprehensive legally binding instrument, the purpose of an ATT should be to bring on board states which currently do not possess an export control system as well as states with export control systems not yet fully developed. In doing so, the ATT should set its goals at effectively promoting higher national standards. In this respect, the ATT should include a range of agreed standards which will serve as a guide for nations in the formation and upgrade of effective and enforceable export control systems. It should be recalled that not all participating states have had the same experience in this field, and that agreed best practices should serve to mark the way towards the advancement of improved controls.

Mr. Chairperson.

International standards for export controls should take into consideration the balance needed between stringent enforcement on the legal trade in arms and the incentive
for traders to actively support prevention and eradication of the unauthorized trade and illicit trafficking.

The ATT should not erode States' confidence that their security concerns are met within the framework of the treaty. The ATT should be an instrument which enhances the collective security of states, rather than detracting from it. In this respect, a mainstay of the ATT must be to uphold the right of states to acquire arms in order to defend themselves. Nothing can diminish from states' inherent right of self-defence nor from the ways and means to realize this right. The ATT should also take into account confidentiality agreements, as they pertain to both military and commercial concerns.

Mr. Chairperson,

These negotiations are governed by General Assembly resolution 64/48 which expressly stipulates that they be conducted according to the rule of consensus. The reason for the introduction of this stipulation was to assure participating states that their vital security interest are not cast aside by a show of hands. That the General Assembly recognizes and understands that in matters of national security, states cannot and will not accept decisions to be taken by majority vote, no matter how
large the majority is. It should be recognized, however, that this right should be exercised with due regard to the importance of achievement of the goals of this process and bringing our work to fruition.

Finally, please allow me to again convey our appreciation for your relentless efforts to move this process forward and assure you that we look forward to continue working with you on this issue.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.