Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

DR. JUSTIN N. SERUHERE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS
TRADE TREATY

NEW YORK, 13 FEBRUARY 2012
Mr. Chairman,

Once again, my delegation and I are pleased to see you presiding over this session. We firmly believe you will steer the meeting to a successful conclusion – given your versatile diplomatic skills and rich experience. We welcome your commitment and tireless efforts to facilitate these deliberations and pledge our full cooperation. We fully associate ourselves with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement made by Egypt and that of the African Group made by Nigeria.

As we have said before; suppliers and consumers need an International Instrument to regulate the change of hands with regard to weapons – all weapons. We consider this to be an imperative for member states to assist the United Nations in fulfilling its basic responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. This should be a common objective and obligation to all member states. Whereas the Armed Trade Treaty (ATT) will not deal with all weapons it is imperative to continue with the debate on disarmament to ensure we attain a general and complete disarmament.

Mr. Chairman
There is no instrument that can equally favour the interests of every member state among the list of 193 countries but we have to understand that we all share a common need to live in freedom and peace. Freedom and development can best thrive in good conditions of peace and security irrespective of who we are, where we come from or where we are going. There are many forums in which we deliberate our fundamental rights and freedoms. It is best to allocate each of our issues at stake to appropriate and relevant forums – which can yield best results and cater for the interests of the entire membership of the United Nations. My delegation is of the view that this conference is the most ideal forum to deliberate the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and secure a positive outcome. Every effort therefore should be directed to secure commitment by all member states to the signing of an ATT.

Mr. Chairman

As we have said before, the use or misuse of weapons affect the peace and security of all nations. In the Great Lakes Region of Africa and indeed in many other countries in Africa we have witnessed callous loss of lives and destruction of property on account of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs). Likewise, acts of terrorism and piracy have been conducted without mercy, using such weapons. The world community can not afford to exclude these weapons that have been used to cause loss of lives and property, untold suffering as well as havoc to international maritime commerce, world wide, from the list of conventional weapons. The use or misuse of SALWs have also included the seizure of high value assets, as well as hostage taking. No nation, institution, or company, big or small has been spared of the menace. For these reasons, the United Republic of Tanzania proposes that Small Arms and Light Weapons In all their Aspects
be included in the ATT. More often than not these weapons have to be transported in order to conduct the heinous acts. In that regard my delegation also proposes that their means of transportation and delivery be included in the treaty. We request other delegations to join us in this call.

Mr. Chairman

In recognition of the need for an effective and efficient ATT we need an instrument that member states will be proud to be associated with. Some regional and sub-regional organizations have been involved in activities of disarmament and arms control in accordance with the requirements of the Charter and lead Institutions of the United Nations, namely the General Assembly and the Security Council. We therefore consider it imperative that a cost-effective follow-up mechanism be established to help in its implementation, based on regional and or sub regional representation.

Mr. Chairman

The moment to have an Arms Trade Treaty is now, not tomorrow. Let us all seize the moment and raise to the occasion. My delegation reassures you of the support of the United Republic of Tanzania.

I thank You