GRENADA

STATEMENT

by

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at the

Fourth Session of the Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty

on

Draft Rules of Procedure

United Nations, New York, 13 – 17 February 2012
Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on the effective and efficient manner in which you have presided over our deliberations.

Your astute leadership has been inspirational and encouraging. Further, I wish to commend you on your comprehensive, detailed and thought provoking papers.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Grenada attaches immense importance to the conclusion of an Arms Trade Treaty. It is for this reason we support the sentiments expressed yesterday by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM on the draft Rules of Procedure. We take the floor now to highlight a few areas in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Having thoroughly examined the draft Rules of Procedure, we believe them to contain in large measure the general elements which can be used as a guide to conduct our work in July.

While in principle we have no problem with the employment of consensus as a rule in decision making, we support the position espoused by CARICOM during its intervention that tremendous effort must be spared to ensure that this mechanism should not be used as a veto to prevent the adoption of a treaty.

In this regard, and having listened to the ongoing debate, we join others before us in asking the PrepCom to consider the proposal by Mexico to use Rule 33(1) in any application of consensus as a means of decision making.

Mr. Chairman,

As a small island developing state with limited resources, my delegation is quite concerned about the possibility of simultaneous meetings being held during the July Conference. Like Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM, we call for Rules 47 and 48 to be implemented in such a way so as not to prevent the total involvement of all States, and in particular, small island developing states like ours, and States that are directly affected by the illicit trade in conventional weapons.
Accordingly, we respectfully request that where simultaneous meetings of the conference subsidiary bodies may become imminent, a mechanism be put in place to facilitate such bodies reporting back to the plenary at the end of each day thereby catering for states with limited resources.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation calls for the active participation of civil society as observers within all the sessions of the upcoming negotiating conference. We believe effective NGO participation will be crucial to a successful Arms Trade Treaty outcome.

The 2009 United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/48 called for civil society participation in the progression of an Arms Trade Treaty. The resolution recognised the crucial role of NGOs in bringing invaluable expertise to the negotiation process.

NGOs provide first-hand experience of affected communities. Their presence also increases the transparency and legitimacy of the process and thereby increasing public confidence.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

My delegation strongly recommend that your consolidated paper which covers all the key areas of a future Arms Trade Treaty including the preamble, principles, goals and objectives, criteria, scope, implementation and final provisions forms the basis for the negotiations at the July 2012 Arms Trade Treaty Conference. We believe that your paper provides a solid foundation from which we can build on.

Mr. Chairman,

Grenada reaffirms its full confidence and trust in your leadership and reiterates its continued commitment and support for the successful negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.