Thank you very much Mr. Chairman,

Once again, we would like to thank you for the efforts, and reiterate our confidence in your skills and leadership.

I would like to bring to your attention on Behalf of Turkey the following points in addition to the statement made by my country yesterday on February 13, 2012:

Non Governmental Organizations (Civil Society Entities) enrich the process leading to a successful outcome. They should be given the meaningful role.

On the other hand, consensus is of vital importance, in issues pertaining to security. This is one of the reasons why Turkey strongly supported Resolution 64/48. This is also why we have to reach a Rules of Procedure that is agreeable to everyone. However, understanding the importance of attaining a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty, Turkey is ready to show the necessary flexibility and constructiveness.

If you will allow me, I will make some general remarks to underline the importance of this Treaty:

- The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons pose a significant threat to peace and security as well as to social and economic development of many countries.

- There is a close relationship between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and terrorism as well.
- We, therefore, strongly support international cooperation to combat and eradicate illicit trade in weapons and munitions within the framework of the UN and other fora such as OSCE and Wassenaar Arrangement, as well as NATO.

- In this respect we welcome the UN General Assembly Decision that envisages the development by the international community of an “Arms Trade Treaty” which would cover a wide range of issues also pertaining to proliferation, uncontrolled accumulation and unauthorized use of small arms and light weapons as well as conventional weapons in general.

- Hence, a comprehensive set of solutions could be brought to this problem that poses a significant risk and even a threat to human security and safety in the 21st century.

- Parallel to our national approach to issues of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, we will continue to extend our support to international efforts to curb illicit sales of all types of arms. In this context, we also support complementary regional efforts in this domain.

- In this context, I should like to express our anticipation of fruitful discussions at the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty due to take place in July this year. Turkey is committed to actively pursuing a strong and effective treaty that contains the highest possible, legally-binding standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons.