JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF:

THE BAHAMAS, CHILE, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PERU, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO and URUGUAY

AT THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

At the outset let me sincerely commend you for your tireless efforts throughout this whole preparatory process, in which good progress has been made regarding the elements that could comprise a future ATT. As we stated during the last PrepCom, we believe that the non-paper that you have elaborated constitutes a good basis for our discussions at the Conference next July.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to reiterate some of the issues that we consider to be of paramount importance with respect to the substance of the future ATT.

1. First and foremost, the ATT should constitute a legally binding instrument, agreed upon by States and hence governing the relationship between them.

2. The ATT cannot be understood as an exports agreement. Therefore, it must reflect an equitable balance of rights and obligations for all its States involved. In this respect, the treaty should be based on a principle of non discrimination.
3. We must strive for a strong and robust ATT, but at the same time the Treaty should be effective.

4. Regarding the preamble, we deem it pertinent to include a notion that the absence or commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms contributes to armed violence.

5. We also want to emphasize that one of the main objectives of the Treaty is to prevent the diversion of arms into the illicit market.

6. Regarding the scope of the Treaty, although our preference is to have a general definition that includes all arms that are not of a nuclear, chemical or biological nature, we could be flexible to work on the basis of your proposal in the understanding that this list will include all types of conventional weapons, regardless of their purpose and without exceptions, including small arms and light weapons, ammunition, components, parts, technology and related materials. Taking into account the object and purpose of the ATT, opening the door to exceptions would create a serious loophole in a future Treaty.

7. With regards to the transactions or activities, to be covered by the Treaty, as we have stated before, it is important to include all types of transfers.

8. On the issue of implementation, we welcome the inclusion that States Parties will have to consult and share information as a confidence building measure.

9. It is important to have clear rules for the implementation of a future ATT, and for this reason we should avoid using ambiguous
terms and concepts, such as “political abuse”, which may undermine the treaty with arbitrary interpretations.

10. We also believe that the notion of information sharing regarding details of exports authorization should be an obligation of exporting States *vis-à-vis* transit and transshipment States. We consider that it is essential that such States give their authorization prior to such activities.

11. On record keeping we consider appropriate to establish a minimum timeframe of 20 years.

12. It is also very important to retain the obligation to take all appropriate measures to prevent the diversion of arms into the illicit market.

13. Regarding international cooperation, we also welcome that there is a reference to the exchange of information among Parties to the Treaty under this heading, as we consider this to be a key element for the successful implementation of the instrument.

14. International assistance is a key component in ensuring that the implementation of the ATT is carried out in an effective manner, and the provisions in this regard should be further strengthened.

15. Concerning the final provisions, we consider pertinent for the Treaty not to allow reservations at least on the scope.
16. We believe that the Review Conference should be given a mandate that would allow for the eventual expansion of the Treaty’s scope due to technological improvements of the arms industry.

17. We particularly welcome the notion of a consultation mechanism allowing recipient countries an opportunity to take the necessary measures to avoid a denial of transfer prior to making a decision.

18. Finally, on peaceful settlement of disputes, we believe that this issue should be further elaborated to at least include a reference to article 33.1 of the UN Charter in order to foresee a wider range of possibilities for States in this subject matter. A proper mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes would prevent the arbitrary imposition of ideological or political views in the implementation of the treaty.

Thank you.