Statement by Malawi
Delivered by Lt Col (Dr.) Dan Kuwali

The Fourth Session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
New York, February 2012

Mr. Chairman

Malawi congratulates you for being the Chair of this session and steering the
meeting with skill of the highest order.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Nigeria, on behalf of the
African Group towards the effort to curb the problem of illicit sale and traffic of
arms and ammunition.

Mr. Chairman, the Rules of Procedure are the guidepost in order to work
appropriately in the negotiations of the future ATT. To this end, Malawi notes the
importance of consensus as outlined in operative Para 5 of General Assembly
Resolution 64/48 (2009) that consensus is aimed at promoting the adoption and
implementation of the future Treaty. A reading of Rule 33 of the Rules of
Procedure shows that consensus is a means to achieve a strong and robust treaty,
not an end itself. Therefore, Malawi echoes the golden rule that “nothing is agreed
until everything is agreed.”

Mr. Chairman, participation of Civil Society is crucial for guidance and valuable
contribution given the active role of the NGOs and their interaction with victims
and affected communities. As such, NGOs should be given room to participate in
as many meetings as possible in order to effectively tap their rich expertise.

Mr. Chairman, in the spirit of Resolution 64/48, we look forward to the
negotiations in July in order to achieve an effective instrument that casts the net
wider to include the regulation of arms as well as ammunition; and a treaty that
ensures that arms and ammunition are not used for committing serious violations
of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Thank you.