GRENADA

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Marlon Glean
Crown Counsel
Ministry of Legal Affairs

at the

Fourth Session of the Preparatory Committee on the Arms Trade Treaty

on

Substantive Elements of the future ATT

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

Grenada aligns itself with the statement made yesterday by the distinguished delegate from Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM on the substantive elements of a future Arms Trade Treaty.

The Government of Grenada anxiously look forward to the negotiation of a strong, robust and effective, legally binding, non-discriminatory, universal Arms Trade Treaty.

A robust Arms Trade Treaty however, must consist of a comprehensive scope. An Arms Trade Treaty must provide for EVERY type of conventional weapon including Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the accompanying ammunitions for these deadly weapons. An Arms Trade Treaty should also cater for component parts and production technologies.

Additionally, a comprehensive scope should never be restricted to only exports of conventional weapons. It should cover the broadest possible range of transfers and transactions including but not limited to imports, re-exports, transit, transhipment, brokering activities and all other forms of transfers and transactions.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation recommends that a future ATT must be comprised of a strong criteria. A criteria based around international human rights, international humanitarian law and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The countries of CARICOM have suffered for way too long because of the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and associated ammunition. The combination of porous borders and insufficient resources have resulted in increased levels of armed violence within the CARICOM region.
As a result, access to basic needs have been restricted and sustainable development and economic growth have been negatively affected. A strong criteria will combat, prevent and eradicate the illicit transfer of these deadly weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

A strong Arms Trade Treaty would not only require states parties to keep records of their arms transfers but should contain a proper mechanism which would expressly layout what records must be kept and provide details on what the subsequent national report should contain.

Furthermore, there must be a requirement that national reports are published. An effective Arms Trade Treaty would place on states an obligation to maintain records for no less than twenty years and would stipulate that an Implementation Support Unit will systematically collate and publish all national reports annually.

Mr. Chairman,

In our intervention on Tuesday my delegation expressed its concerns over the interpretation of the term “consensus” in the Rules of Procedure. We believe that this term could be narrowly interpreted which would undermine our efforts to realise an effective and efficient Arms Trade Treaty.

Accordingly, we join with Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM and Mexico in requesting a revision of Rule 33(3) and Rule 35(1) to provide for a two-thirds majority vote if all attempts at consensus fail.

We are also willing to consider the latest proposals put forward by Germany. We are of the view that the German proposal seek to strike a balance among the various schools of thought while at the same time maintaining the mandate of resolution 64/48.

Within the German proposal however, we would request that the words “by consensus” at the end of the new paragraph 2 be replaced by the words “on the basis of consensus”.
In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by the Government of Australia in ensuring my delegation’s active participation in the Arms Trade Treaty process.

Mr. Chairman,

Grenada remains fully committed and supportive to the realisation of a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty of the highest possible standard. Moreover, we look forward to you presiding over our deliberations at the July conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.