Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Ranko Vilović

Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Croatia
to the United Nations

at the

Special event to mark the opening for signature of
the Arms Trade Treaty

New York, 3 June 2013
Your Excellency’s,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is indeed my great honour to sign the Arms Trade Treaty on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

From the very beginning my country has supported international efforts aimed at adopting the Arms Trade Treaty and we believe that only through international cooperation, exchange of information and the establishment of universal standards can an effective system of arms control be put in place.

The Arms Trade Treaty represents the key binding instruments in the area of international peace and security which for the first time in history introduces common international standards related to the international trade in conventional weapons. Croatia sees our Treaty as one of the central pillars in the multilateral arms control and non-proliferation regimes and we recognize its importance in strengthening the Human Rights Law and the International Humanitarian Law.

We understand all too well, and it stems from our recent history, that effective arms control, including the transfers, lies at the core of creating preconditions for sustainable development and the rule of law.

Soon, by becoming the 28th member of the European Union on July 1st, Croatia will close one historic chapter. Together with our EU partners we stand ready to contribute to the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty at all levels – national, regional in the South East Europe and global.

This event today is only the first step on that journey.

Thank you.