Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having aligned to the statement of the European Union, allow me to make three remarks.

Today's signing of the Arms Trade Treaty marks an important milestone on our road to a safer future. After so many years, we have finally reached the point where we solemnly sign the Arms Trade Treaty. Slovenia embarked on this path early on. On June 8, 1998, the European Union foreign ministers adopted the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. At that time Slovenia had not yet been a member of the European Union, but was invited to join the Code of Conduct as an associated country. At the end of June 1998, my country responded positively and acceded to the Code. This lead to the reform of our national export control system in an effort to adapt it according to the Code.

With the signing of the Treaty, we aim to effectively regulate international trade in conventional arms, related military equipment and technology. Our goal is to deter illegal and promote legitimate arms trade. We believe that through effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty we will be making a better world: a future with fewer international and regional conflicts and civil wars, and, consequently, a future with fewer victims, and a world with more respect for human dignity and human rights. In short: a world with less suffering.

Today we are embarking on a new journey. First, we must ensure a speedy entry into force of the Treaty. Then we must make it universal and, finally, we must implement it globally in an effective manner. An enormous bulk of work lies ahead. And we can only do it together. Slovenia believes that this is a tremendous opportunity, and yes – we can do it!

Thank you.