STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT READ BY MS EUNICE LUAMBIA, DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, I would like on behalf of the Zambian delegation to congratulate you on your election as chair. I also wish to commend you for the great effort that you put into the preparations for this meeting as evidenced by the elaborate draft outcome before us. With your experience we are confident that you will lead us to a successful conclusion on Friday.

Mr Chairman

Zambia remains committed to its obligations under the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and light Weapons in All its Aspects (UNPoA) and is in full support of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) and other related instruments such as the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials.

In order to combat illicit trade and the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons as espoused in the ITI with regard to cooperation on tracing, Zambia recognizes the need to have a standardized international tracing methods and practices based on information and intelligence sharing. This has been our practice primarily through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Organization (SARPCO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the ITI provides the necessary framework as the international standard on tracing of illicit arms.

To effectively carry out its mandate under the ITI, Zambia attaches great importance to interagency cooperation and this is demonstrated through the national collaboration that exists between the customs, security and intelligence departments and other partners in identifying and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. This cooperation is critical because Zambia is land linked to nine countries and therefore border control poses peculiar geographical and logistical challenges.

Because we are land linked, we remain vulnerable to illicit transferring of arms and diversion which threatens not only our national security, but also global safety.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate Zambia’s commitment to the ITI. We however, believe that there is need to build capacity in those areas of the UNPoA and ITI such as record management and tracing which are critical for the effective and successful implementation of the ITI and UNPoA. In this regard we support the inclusion of article 38 and 39 in the draft outcome document. We further support the articles in the draft that deal with international cooperation and assistance in technology exchange.

I thank you