

Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Explanation of the vote on resolutions L.55

Thank you Madam Chair,

I've taken the floor to explain the position of my delegation with respect to the draft resolutions L.55 entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an affected country by the problem of the illicit trade in arms which in Iran's case linked to drug trafficking and operations of terrorist groups from outside of the country, has always been supportive to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in arms. Thus, my country attaches a great importance to the issue of transfer control in order to prevent such illicit trade. Our constructive approach during the recent UN Small Arms Review Conference and negotiating a compromise text for the transfer control section of the draft Final Document is an indicative of Iran's approach towards the issue of transfer control. Throughout of the informal consultations by the sponsors of the current draft resolution either bilaterally or in the informal meetings my delegation expressed its views and its readiness for a constructive cooperation. However, our views have not been reflected in the text of the draft resolution L.55.

In our view, the current draft contains some repetitions and contradictions, and lacks a basis for consensus which is necessary for such a resolution. Some of the preamble paragraphs are repetitive. Furthermore, in the operative section, the draft resolution from one hand seeks the views of the member states but from the other hand even before receiving the views of states, requests the establishment of a group of governmental experts which seems contradictory and indeed it is a prejudgment to views of member states. During the sponsors' consultations, a proposal was made to reconcile this contradiction by pursuing a step-by-step approach. This proposal was supported by many delegations including mine. But unfortunately it has not been taken into consideration.

Last but not least, in such an important initiative all major arms producing countries should be involved and their support is necessary for any future successful instrument. Without the participation of the arms producing states, even if we achieve such an ambitious goal, it will turn to

another ineffective instrument. It could also undermine the UN Programme of Action which in our view is a matter of serious concern.

While we continue to examine the overall effectiveness or ineffectiveness of this proposed initiative and for the above-mentioned reasons, at this stage my delegation abstained on the draft resolution L.55.

Thank you Madam Chair.