Mr. Chairman;

I would like to explain the position of my delegation with respect to the draft resolution L.39 entitled "Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms ".

In view of the complexity of the issues of conventional arms transfers, Governmental Experts Group in paragraph 27 of its report, recommended that further consideration of efforts within the United Nations to address the international trade in conventional arms is required on a step-by-step basis. Notwithstanding this recommendation, the mandate of open-ended working group to be established in 2009 as stipulated in the operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution is designed to focus on exploring the common elements for an eventual treaty on the arms trade. In our view the issue needs further deliberation and it is still premature to rush for a treaty. Moreover, the comprehensive implementation of the UN Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is considered as a priority and we are concerned that a premature move towards an arms trade treaty would lead to undermining the effective implementation of PoA.

Therefore, while we continue to further examine the proposals contained in the said draft, at this stage my delegation abstained on the draft Resolution L.39.