STATEMENT

by

Mr Ulf Lindell
Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the International Organizations in Geneva

at the First Committee of the 66th General Assembly,
Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons

United Nations
New York

18 October, 2011
Mr Chairman,

Sweden has the honour to present the draft resolution L.17 on the "Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects". We do so together with Bulgaria, as Chair of the Fourth Review Conference of the CCW.

The purpose of the CCW is to ban or restrict the use of certain specific types of weapons that cause excessive injury or unnecessary suffering to combatants or affect civilians indiscriminately. The Convention forms an essential and integral part of international law applicable to armed conflict. It is designed to provide a framework within which humanitarian concerns regarding conventional weapons can be dealt with. We need the CCW to be a dynamic instrument responding to urgent humanitarian challenges before us.

Today the CCW has 114 States Parties. Thus, the number of States Parties to the Convention still falls short of universal membership. Let me take this opportunity to express my hope that the countries that have not yet joined the Convention will find it in their interest to do so, and become parties to the Convention and its Protocols, including the important amendment that extends the scope of the Convention to include situations of non-international conflict.
Mr Chairman,

The purpose of the resolution which we introduce today, is to continue to express support for the CCW, with particular focus on the univerzalisation of the Convention and its Protocols. The text of the resolution also reflects the ongoing work within the framework of the Convention since the adoption of last year's resolution. It is an expression of support for the CCW as an important international humanitarian law instrument. However, the resolution does not pronounce itself on the substance of issues being discussed in this connection, and it does not prejudge the outcome of any future discussions among States Parties.

In conclusion, we wish to express our sincere hope that the draft resolution, as in previous years, can be adopted without a vote.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.