Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your beneficial and instrumental work.

Israel has been calling upon the international community, for many years now, to conclude a legally binding norm which will ban comprehensively the transfer of arms to terrorists, instead of the unsatisfactory piecemeal approach currently prevailing. A clear and comprehensive norm banning the transfer of arms to terrorists should be created, alongside the demand for concrete steps to be taken.

We have suggested ways to overcome the long standing dispute over the definition of a terrorist, mainly through the use of the 13 already agreed-upon conventions regarding terrorist activities. This issue is certainly not less relevant today than it was in 2007, when Israel presented its paper on this topic in the CD. Be it through the mechanism of the ATT or in the
context of agenda item 7 of the CD, Transparency in Armaments, the
ternational community must act decisively and in unison on this all
important issue.

In this context, Israel welcomes the successful finalization of the
preparatory process of the Arms Trade Treaty, under the able leadership
of Ambassador Moritan. It is Israel's view that the negotiations, planned
for next summer, could eventually lead to the creation of a good legally
binding instrument, provided that the following principles are endorsed by
all parties to the negotiations:

- The ATT should opt for the high and robust standards on export
  control.
- The ATT should include concrete measures in order to combat arms
  transfers to terrorists and to non-state actors.
- The decisions on arms export must remain under the full
  responsibility and sovereign considerations of the states.

Mr. Chairperson,

Illicit trade and uncontrolled transfers of small arms and light weapons
(SALW) has severe destabilizing effects and humanitarian consequences.
Israel welcomes the successful outcome of the Open Ended Meeting of
Governmental Experts in May 2011, the first meeting of its kind which
focused on marking, record keeping and cooperation on tracing of small
arms. Israel is ready to play its part and engage constructively with other
member states to contribute to the success of the next Review Conference
on the Implementation of the PoA in 2012. This success could be yet
another step to bolster our resolve to prevent the transfer of arms to terrorists and reduce the human suffering caused by this phenomenon.

Mr. Chairperson,

Very shortly we will gather in Geneva for the Fourth Review Conference of the CCW, under the able guidance of Ambassador Ganev. This meeting will set the stage for the next review cycle of this important convention, but even more importantly it will decide the fate of the Sixth Protocol on Cluster Munitions after more than four years of concerted and serious negotiations. Unfortunately, some member states are working actively to thwart the efforts to conclude a legally-binding instrument that will have a real impact on the ground and advance in a significant manner the humanitarian cause. We trust and hope that member states will remember the humanitarian cause and bring these negotiations to fruition.

As a State Party to the CCW and Amended Protocol II, Israel has undertaken concrete measures aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences that may be associated with the use of anti-personnel landmines, thereby striking an appropriate balance between humanitarian concerns and legitimate security needs.

In this respect, in addition to the Moratorium imposed unilaterally by Israel in 1994 on the sale and transfer of AP mines, the Israeli Parliament enacted in March 2011 the Minefield Clearance Law that sets out a
statutory framework for the clearance of minefields not essential to Israel's national security, and establishes the Israeli National Mine Action Authority (NMAA). This Authority is tasked with the formulation and implementation of multi-year and national mine actions plans, and with determining national demining specifications, while taking into consideration, inter alia, the International Mine Action Standards endorsed by the UN inter-Agency Coordination Group. Unfortunately, as long as the regional security situation continues to impose a threat on Israel's safety and sovereignty, the need to protect the Israeli borders - including through the use of AP mines - cannot diminish.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

Israel would like to emphasize its deep concern over the wide spread illicit proliferation of MANPADS, which pose an ominous threat to civilian and military aviation alike. As a country that has narrowly escaped the shooting down of one of its civilian passenger aircrafts, in Mombasa, in November 2002, Israel is all too aware of the dangers Man-Portable Air Defense Systems present when they fall into the wrong hands, especially those of terrorists. It is high time the international community allocates the necessary time and energy to address properly this grave problem, by focusing on the best ways to prevent these weapons from reaching unauthorized and irresponsible recipients, through legal, political and practical measures.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.