2012 EXPLANATION OF VOTE
FOR THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED, “THE ARMS TRADE TREATY”

Mr. Chairman,

Canada takes the floor to explain its vote on the resolution entitled “The arms trade treaty.”

Canada believes that the goal of impeding the illicit and irresponsible arms trade that fuels terrorism, organized crime and armed conflict is an important one.

While acting on the need to hinder the irresponsible trade in conventional arms and their diversion to illicit end users or end uses, it is also very important that an ATT recognize and acknowledge the legitimacy of lawful ownership of, and trade in, firearms by responsible citizens for their personal and recreational use, including sport shooting, hunting, and collecting. We must not forget that since there are legitimate uses, there is also legitimate trade.

Canada firmly believes that it is important for this to be recognized in an ATT in order to focus and strengthen the Treaty by clarifying its intent. As such, during the ATT negotiations, Canada advocated for a Preambular paragraph in the treaty text on the legitimacy of lawful ownership of, and trade in, certain conventional arms. Canada wishes to see that paragraph in the draft treaty text strengthened, so that the treaty does not simply take note of, but rather affirms the legitimacy of these activities.

Furthermore, we stress that an Arms Trade Treaty should in no way result in any new burdens being placed on lawful firearms owners in Canada.