2012 EXPLANATION OF POSITION
FOR THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED, “THE ILLICIT TRADE
IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS”

Mr. Chairman,

Canada takes the floor to explain its position (or vote) on the resolution entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.”

Canada has joined consensus on the resolution (or voted in favour of the resolution), as we believe that the goal of impeding illicit flows of small arms and light weapons used in terrorism, organized crime, and armed conflict is an important one.

While acting on the need to hinder the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, it is important that we 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.

The Government of Canada is strongly committed to keeping its communities and streets safe. Canada has also taken steps to lessen the burden on law-abiding gun owners, by eliminating a wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry.

We stress that any UN initiatives designed to address the illicit trade in small arms should in no way result in any new burdens being placed on lawful firearms owners in Canada.