Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the floor. Since it is the first time that my delegation speaks at this year’s Session of this Committee, allow me to congratulate you first for your election to the post of the Committee Chairman. Allow me also to express our full support to you and your fellow bureau members in order to successfully guide and steer our work during this year’s Committee Session.

Allow me also to express our alignment with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU). Allow me to add three national points important for my country.

Mr. Chairman,

There were new developments that took place in the field of conventional weapons in the course of last year that should be mentioned and discussed in this Committee. In our view, the most important event was the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that took place here in New York back in July this year. This was extraordinary event that gathered representatives of all UN member states and non-governmental organizations. International media covered this event with great attention. We regret that the conference did not end with the successful conclusion of the Arms Trade Treaty. Despite that, we look positively to the final draft text of the Ambassador Moritan from 26 of July. In our view, this document is a good basis for further negotiations at the second and final session of the Conference that should take place in March 2013 here in New York.

Slovenia is convinced that on the basis of this document, a strong, robust and effective ATT is still achievable. We believe that the international community is capable of agreeing a meaningful, effective and legally binding international instrument aiming at regulating the international trade in conventional arms. In that vein we appeal to all UN member states to come back here in New York to the second and final ATT Conference in March next year. At this Conference, we have to finish “unfinished business,” and “seal a deal” as rightly pointed out by the UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon.

We commend and admire Ambassador Moritan for his tremendous efforts and work in his capacity as a chair of the July ATT Conference. We are convinced that he is the right person to continue his work as a chairman.

For this reason, Slovenia co-sponsored draft resolution on ATT that was tabled last week by Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom. In our view, this resolution is of key importance for the continuation of the process and successful conclusion of the Treaty. We are deeply convinced that this Committee can gather enough political will and adopt this resolution with consensus.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me now to say a few words on the Convention on the Anti-personnel Mines. Since its signature back in 1997, Slovenia always strongly supported Convention’s goals and was promoting its universalization. We hope that other countries would follow the path and become next parties to the Convention rather sooner than later.
Slovenia is proud to accept a chairmanship of the next Meeting of States Parties that will take place in the first week in December in Geneva. Permanent Representative of Slovenia in Geneva, Ambassador Kovačič, will chair the meeting and later on Convention’s Coordinating Committee. Slovenia would like to see further improvements in the implementation of the convention and sees opportunity in using synergies of other instruments in the field of international humanitarian law.

Slovenia always believed in regional approach of the implementation of the Convention. We are convinced that there are benefits of regional cooperation – such as regional harmonization of national standards in the field of demining is case in point to prove that. Donor attention is also easier to attract if the affected states work together in this regard. Slovenia is satisfied with the results of regional cooperation in the region of South Eastern Europe. The Slovenia based International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF Enhancing Human Security), established by the Government of Slovenia, is our contribution to the regional approach that we are particularly proud of.

Slovenia is deeply convinced that our goal, world free of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war and respect for victims is achievable goal within one generation.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to say a few words on Clusters Munition Convention that is also very important to us. Slovenia would like to congratulate Norway for good organization of the Third Meeting of States Parties in Oslo. We learned of many positive developments regarding the implementation of the Convention. The number of States Parties is gradually increasing. There are now 75 States Parties of the Convention. We shouldn’t stop there. We hope that the Convention will attract one of countries, major manufacturers and possessors of the cluster munitions to join it.

In any case, there is a lot of work to be done. First, we hope that the agreement on the Implementation Support Unit, which is vitally important for the life of Convention (as we see in the case of Convention on Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines) will be reached as soon as possible. Slovenia also believes that reporting is very important ingredient of the success of the Convention. We would therefore appeal to all parties and signatories of the Convention to report on their respective activities on the implementation of the Convention. We also hope that in the future, the parties will effectively address new issues such as financing of the cluster munitions production.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude my statement by saying how transparency in armament matters to us. That is why we support, from the very beginning the UN Register on Conventional Arms. We regret the fact that the number of national reports transferred to the register is at record low. According to the report of the UN Secretary General and its addendum it was until late September this year that only 36 UN member states provided their national reports. We should be all more active in this regard in the future. Slovenia would also reiterate its longstanding position that the scope of the Register should be widened by including new categories of conventional arms, such as small arms and light weapons.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.