Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Croatia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union but allow me to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Croatia as a dedicated State Party to the existing multilateral conventions and regimes on conventional weapons control believes that results can be achieved only through the comprehensive and mutually reinforcing policies on multilateral, regional and national level. Croatia is also a signatory state to the historic Arms Trade Treaty and will be in a position to ratify the Treaty as soon as our national procedure is complete, most likely by the end of this year. We see ATT as a key instrument in enhancing global safety and human security through curbing illegal trade and availability of small arms and light weapons. Croatia will do its part in assisting its effective implementation regionally and globally, including through the relevant EU assistance portfolio.

Mr. Chairman,

From the national perspective, allow me to point out to our experience in both national and regional post-conflict arms control efforts, with emphasis on small arms and light weapons. We know that the accumulation, availability and trafficking of these weapons fuel insecurity and slow down fragile peace-building processes. In this light, Croatia welcomes Security Council Resolution on small arms and light weapons, which in our view further strengthens the Arms Trade Treaty.

Croatia has gained significant experience in implementing successful national arms control measures and in fostering regional cooperation in a challenging post-conflict environment. From chairing Small Arms and Light Weapons related activities in regional fora and the interdisciplinary National Commission to Control Small Arms and Light Weapons to strong regional cooperation with the UNDP. (Project entitled "South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, SEESAC"). Together with our partners from the European Union, Croatia closely follows development in regards to the issue. Given our first-hand experience and deep understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of controlling small arms and light weapons, Croatia is in a position to offer its expertise on the global level.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, as has been said before, small arms and light weapons are neither small nor light in their impact and our response to this challenge must therefore be strong and united.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.