STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Mårten Grunditz
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden

on

Conventional Weapons

in the First Committee

68th Session of the General Assembly

United Nations

New York

30 October, 2013

-CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-
Mr. Chairman,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the comprehensive statement in this thematic debate by the European Union, and would like to make the following short remarks in a national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty represents a major success for the efforts to curb the illicit and irresponsible trade in conventional arms for multilateral arms control and also for the UN system as such.

We wish to pay tribute to ambassadors Garcia Moritan and Woolcott and their teams, as well as the group of co-authors, the civil society organizations and all who worked tirelessly during the past several years to make the adoption of the ATT a reality. The process has now entered into a new phase, and we look forward to working closely with partners in making sure that the implementation of the Treaty will be supported by an effective Secretariat, and constructive interaction among States Parties.

Sweden attaches great importance to the early entry into force and effective implementation of the ATT. The treaty can only be fully effective when implemented universally. The international community has a responsibility, and States Parties an obligation, under the Treaty to support those who need assistance in implementing the ATT. We would like to acknowledge the work of UNODA as well as of others in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden remains a strong supporter of the Convention on certain conventional weapons, the CCW, as a pillar of international humanitarian law and an important part of the disarmament “architecture”. This year, Sweden has the honour of chairing the Seventh Conference of the high contracting parties to Protocol V of the CCW. In his capacity as President-Designate, our ambassador in Geneva was mandated by the High Contracting Parties of the Sixth Conference, in November 2012, to carry out efforts aimed at universalizing the Protocol. As a part of this mandate, the President-Designate was encouraged to report to the General Assembly on these efforts.

This universalization effort has consisted of meetings carried out by Swedish diplomatic representatives in a number of states to encourage them to join Protocol V.

In many cases, the states approached expressed support for the principles underlying the CCW and Protocol V. Some states gave very positive responses that instilled hope that an accession to the CCW or to Protocol V could take place in the immediate future.

It is our conclusion from these efforts that more must be done to increase the knowledge of the CCW and its protocols and raise awareness of the crucial role that this instrument plays for the strengthening of international humanitarian law. In this context, we
recognize the efforts of previous presidents of the Convention and its protocols and those of the CCW Implementation Support Unit in Geneva.

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden welcomes the accession of Kuwait and Zambia to the CCW and that of Bangladesh to Protocol V, especially as these countries represent parts of the world where the rate of adherence to the CCW and its protocols remains low. It is particularly unfortunate that many of the countries that remain outside the CCW are affected by mines and other Explosive Remnants of War. Bearing this in mind, continued efforts for the universalization of the CCW and all its annexed Protocols should remain a priority.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.