Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your chairmanship of the First Committee. I would like to assure you of the full support of my delegation.

In addition to the statement delivered earlier by the European Union, I would like to present a few points from national perspective.

The adoption in 2013 of the Arms Trade Treaty was a major achievement of the international community. Just over a year later, the threshold of 50 ratifications was reached at the end of September. My country is among those 53 states that have made the entry into force of this important legal instrument a reality. By establishing regulations for the trade in conventional arms at the global level, the Arms Trade Treaty fills a serious gap in international law. Now, its implementation and universalization are of utmost importance. I take this opportunity to call on the States who have not done so, to sign and ratify this important instrument.

I would also like to highlight the importance of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons as a key instrument to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) at the national, regional and global levels. Bulgaria regards the UNPoA framework as an appropriate forum to address new issues and developments that could further contribute to curbing the illicit trade in and excessive accumulation of small arms and
light weapons. In this respect, we look forward to the work of the 2015 open-ended meeting of governmental experts to consider the implications of recent developments in SALW-related technologies, as tasked by the Outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of June this year.

Bulgaria highly values the international instruments strengthening international humanitarian law.

We welcome the successful outcome of the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction and the adoption of the Maputo Action Plan which sets the priorities before States Parties for the next five years. In this context, allow me to express my country's deep concern about the alleged use of anti-personal mines by certain States Parties and the alleged landing of such weapons on the territory of a State Party to the Convention by a State not Party.

Bulgaria hopes that at the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to be held in Croatia in 2015, all States Parties will duly address the remaining challenges in order to fulfill the commitments they have undertaken. The adoption of a clear plan for urgent progress towards universalization is of key importance to meet the humanitarian objectives of the Convention. We strongly condemn the alleged use of cluster munitions against civilians and we call upon all parties to refrain from such use.

My country is firmly committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols, which provide an effective multilateral platform for responding to present and future developments of weapons technology. In this regard, we see great merit in the informal expert discussions on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in the framework of CCW.

Thank you!