Mr. President,

Mexico welcomes the imminent entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 24 December 2014. This important Treaty represents an historic achievement, as it constitutes the first global effort to regulate the conventional arms trade and to establish a legal framework for accountability and transparency in the international transfer of these weapons. Mexico will continue promoting this Treaty in order to contribute to its universalization.

Given Mexico’s commitment to ensuring the establishment of the regime created by the ATT and with the objective of achieving a real impact on the ground, my Government will host the First Conference of States Parties in 2015.

Mexico will conduct the preparatory process towards the First Conference of States Parties in a transparent and inclusive manner, together with all the States that have signed and ratified this instrument, as well as with members of civil society who have promoted its early entry into force and effective implementation.

As President of the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT, Mexico will promote inclusive decisions for an effective and timely implementation of the Treaty and for the construction of the institutional and procedural arrangements established by the ATT, which allows Member States to advance in the control of conventional arms trade, to foster a responsible arms trade and prevent their misuse or their diversion to the illicit market.

Mr. President,

The respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) constitutes the foundation for the protection of life, dignity and integrity of civilians in the event of an armed conflict. It is in
this vein that we join those calls to prevent and eliminate the use of indiscriminate weapons, particularly in densely populated areas.

At the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention, held in Maputo in June this year, the States Parties undertake the important commitment to intensify efforts to urgently comply with our obligations under the Convention by 2025. The establishment of a specific date is an important step for the benefit of humanity.

The Convention has not only managed to stigmatize such weapons but has also contributed to the destruction of more than a million anti-personnel land mines and more than a hundred thousand anti-vehicle mines between 2009 - 2013.

This hard work has not been easy. Mexico wishes to acknowledge the crucial role of governments, specialized mechanisms and programs of the United Nations and civil society, whose contribution has been significant and commendable to free humanity of this scourge.

Mexico reiterates its commitment to the great humanitarian mission established by the Ottawa Convention to move towards the total elimination of anti-personnel landmines, strengthening international humanitarian law and the human rights regime.

Mr. President,

Mexico attaches great importance to humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, and condemns any use of these devices by any actor, anywhere and under any circumstances. Its use is a violation of the principles of distinction and proportionality enshrined in international humanitarian law.

Since its entry into force, the Oslo Convention has proven to be a solid, effective and innovative international instrument and an appropriate legal framework for the stigmatization and elimination of cluster munitions.

The Convention has promoted the highest standards of international humanitarian law on victim assistance. Even non-signatory countries with the largest number of victims of cluster munitions have documented their efforts in this regard in accordance with the regulations established by the Convention.

Despite the progress made, there is still work to be done to achieve the universalization of the Oslo Convention and its implementation at the national, regional and international levels and to end the threat posed by such inhuman weapons.

Mr. President,

Depleted uranium is used in armor tanks and anti-tank ammunition manufacturing, missiles and projectiles due to its high density, high melting point and availability. In this regard, weapons with depleted uranium are considered as conventional weapons and some armed forces use them freely, and it can be used in both the nuclear and conventional industries.
Mexico considers that the use of depleted uranium should be limited to peaceful purposes, such as industrial activities, health, research and production of electricity, thus avoiding the use of radioactive material in the arms field. In this regard, Mexico does not use this material for the manufacture of weapons or ammunitions.

The health effects of depleted uranium depend on the type and extent of exposure, its characteristics and the context where used. In this regard and in order to have more details about those consequences, Mexico encourages the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and any other international organization that is able to do so, to continue conducting studies on the exposure arising from the use of such arms and ammunition.

Mr. President,

It is also an imperative to raise awareness on the growing global military expenditure that consumes a large proportion of both human and material resources taking into consideration the current problems associated with underdevelopment, food insecurity and climate change.

Finally, I take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the work of civil society in the follow-up of the above mentioned multilateral instruments on conventional weapons. Civil society support and contributions are essential for the implementation of these treaties, as well as to raise awareness in the international community of the humanitarian impact of these weapons. Mexico will continue to work closely with civil society in order to contribute to international peace and security.

Thank you very much.