Mr Chair,

France aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

2015 was a turning point in the establishment of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The first meeting of States Parties in Cancún was successful. It will help maintain the very strong momentum that has been associated with the Treaty since its entry into force in December 2014.

It established a solid framework: inclusive rules of procedure that protect the rule of consensus, robust financial rules and an efficient secretariat, overseen by a geographically representative management committee. France fully participated in these discussions, including as facilitator for matters related to the secretariat. From the outset, France has promoted the ambition to create conditions aiming at fostering the implementation of the Treaty and the goal of making the ATT a truly universal standard. We welcome the commitment of civil society throughout the process.

The decisions made in Cancún address the goals set out by the negotiators of the Treaty and form a solid basis for future work. A new chapter is being written for the ATT. We now need to work on its implementation and lay the groundwork for a partnership of responsibility between importers and exporters in all regions of the world.
France will continue the efforts undertaken in 2014 to identify assistance needs related to the implementation of the Treaty, in partnership with African countries and regional organizations, in line with the conclusions of the 2013 Élysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa.

Mr Chair,

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are by far those that kill the most people worldwide, today. They have a profoundly destabilizing effect and hinder the development of the most fragile States. The United Nations Programme of Action to combat illicit trafficking in SALW is therefore a crucial instrument. In its national capacity, France is carrying out projects to secure arms depots and destroy excess munitions in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Guinea and South Sudan.

We attach the same importance to the international tracing and marking instrument, a joint French-Swiss initiative of which we are celebrating the tenth anniversary this year.

Lastly, Germany and France are jointly submitting again this year the biennial resolution entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus", which is traditionally adopted without a vote. We call upon delegations to co-sponsor this resolution and support its adoption.

Mr Chair,

In 2015, within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), we continued the discussions on Lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) that France initiated in 2014. This is a forward-looking topic that concerns us all. It requires in-depth consideration by the international community, supported by experts and civil society. Lethal autonomous weapons systems raise very practical technical, ethical, legal and operational issues. The debates that took place in 2014 and 2015 showed that the CCW was capable of addressing issues of the future. The discussions need to continue at the CCW in 2016, bearing in mind the Review Conference that will take place in November.

Again in the CCW framework, and more precisely that of its Amended Protocol II, France will continue in 2016 to coordinate, alongside Moldova, the discussions of the informal Group of Experts on Improvised explosive devices (IED). These devices are a threat not only to civilians and security forces, but also to the stability of the affected societies. The Group of Experts of CCW Amended Protocol II can make a real contribution on this issue. We also fully support the efforts undertaken by Afghanistan to put, for the first time, this topic to the agenda of the First Committee.
Lastly, concerning the **Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions**, France and Albania have fulfilled their mandate as coordinators of the Working Group on Stockpile Destruction. France welcomes the success of the recent Review Conference and the adoption of the Dubrovnik Action Plan. Allegations concerning the use of cluster munitions, including in Syria, show us how important it is to keep working towards the universalization of this instrument. France is continuing its efforts to this end, as well as in support of the continued, effective implementation of the **Ottawa Mine-Ban Convention**.

Again in Syria, indiscriminate bombing with barrels of explosives is the primary cause of numerous victims as well as significant flows of refugees. France condemns these continued indiscriminate attacks with dramatic consequences for civilian populations.

Thank you.