Statement by
Narcisa Vladulescu, Counselor,
Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN,
in the Conventional Weapons cluster
New York – 26 October 2015
Mr. Chairman,

Romania fully aligns itself with the European Union’s statement delivered earlier. I will add a few points in national capacity.

Romania considers the legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) an essential milestone in the development of internationally agreed standards to regulate the global trade in conventional weapons. We express our satisfaction for the Treaty’s entry into force in December 2014, and, particularly, for the successful First Conference of the States Parties to the ATT, held in Mexico, this past August. We thank the Mexican government for its gracious hospitality. My country was one of the 67 states parties participating in this meeting and helping to forge a solid path forward, towards the effective implementation of this essential legal instrument.

Romania has a robust national export control system and participates in the activities of the international export control regimes, including the Wassenaar Arrangement. We stand ready to contribute with our experience to the further development of ATT infrastructure, and, particularly, to continue to work towards the Treaty’s universalisation, and to contribute to its effective implementation worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly believe that without strict adherence to our legal commitments, we risk undermining international security architecture. Romania is determined to continue to be a factor of regional stability and security, and to constructively participate in the regional and international efforts aimed at maintaining peace and security.

We would like to underline that in the context of ballistic missile proliferation and of increased interest and efforts of state and non-state actors to acquire such technology, the NATO ballistic missile defense capability, which will include a site in Romania, would in fact contribute to international security and stability.

One statement, previously made in the general debate, claimed that the missile defense facility in Romania “would seriously challenge the international security environment”. We will use every opportunity to highlight the exclusive defensive nature of that capability and its use for legitimate self-defense, in accordance with the UN Charter and the international law.

We underline once again, that the ballistic missile defense system is aimed at countering the ballistic threats from outside the Euro-Atlantic area. Furthermore, according to the provisions of the Agreement signed between Romania and the US, which is a public document, in complete transparency, the characteristics of the system cannot be changed and it cannot be used for purposes other than those stipulated in the Agreement.

Mr. Chairman

The need for improving confidence-building efforts among countries, in particular in the field of expenditures related to military enhancements, is one of Romania’s priorities. Once again, this year, the resolution on MilEx will be tabled by Germany and Romania.
This draft resolution has been adopted without a vote for more than a decade. And we hope this will be the case this year as well.
We continue to support the full compliance by States parties with all the obligations undertaken under existing treaties, agreements and mechanism in the field of disarmament and arms control, while promoting the universalisation and implementation of these legal instruments.

Mr. Chairman,
We remain firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols. We believe that discussing important issues related to the use of weapons systems and learning from each other’s national implementation activities provides a significant and real benefit, including from a humanitarian perspective. In this regard, we see merit in the expert discussions on Lethal Autonomous Weapons System in the framework of CCW.
Thank you.