Mr. Chairman,

Sweden fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. I will now make some additional points in a national capacity.

The adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty in 2013 was a landmark in the establishment of robust and effective common standards for the international trade in conventional arms. The first Conference of States Parties of the ATT successfully moved implementation of this important Treaty forward. The ATT is the fruit of political will and international commitment. It demonstrates that tangible results can be achieved also in difficult areas. Sweden has long been a strong proponent of the Arms Trade Treaty and it remains a Swedish political priority. We continue to actively support the Treaty’s universalisation and effective implementation and thus its contribution to the strengthening of human security and International Humanitarian Law.

The ATT also represents progress in more specific ways. For the first time, gender-based violence has been included as a factor to be taken into account in the field of export control. The use of weapons affects women and men, and boys and girls differently. It is paramount to address the male social roles that in many cases shape armed violence, and the increased levels of violence against women that follow in its wake. This will continue to be a Swedish priority.

Mr. Chairman,

The destructive use of small arms and light weapons continues to spread suffering, death and fear, undermines international peace and security and undercuts efforts for development. Without ammunition, these weapons are inoperable. Sweden will therefore continue to work hard to make sure that international instruments aiming to control these weapons take into account the control of ammunition.
The UN Programme of Action remains our most important forum for addressing these issues and developing effective solutions, and Sweden looks forward to a successful Biannual Meeting of States in 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

This year's Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions set important goals in the Dubrovnik Action Plan. At the Review Conference we were pleased to announce that Sweden has completed the destruction of its cluster munitions, five years ahead of the deadline given by the Convention. We fully share the goals of the Convention banning this inhumane weapon. For the ban to become effective, it is important that also the world's largest manufacturers and users of cluster munitions join the Convention.

The Ottawa Convention sets a world norm for the non-use of anti-personnel mines. One important theme of last year's Review Conference in Maputo was that the goal of a mine-free world is possible to achieve if efforts are sustained. The example of Mozambique itself has shown that this is a real possibility, as the country recently could declare itself to be mine-free. Sweden is proud to have contributed to this achievement. All in all, Sweden has contributed over 100 million Euros to mine action worldwide over the last decade.

Sweden remains firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols. We very much appreciated the opportunity at the second Expert Meeting in April this year to take a further look at the questions around lethal autonomous weapon systems, LAWS. As a starting point, Sweden has underlined that humans should not delegate to machines the power to make life-or-death decisions. As States, we have an obligation to assess the legality of new weapons, and we therefore welcome a continued discussion of this issue within the framework of the CCW.
Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by making an observation of key importance to my Government. Without the full participation of women in discussions on disarmament and arms control – in line with the women, peace and security agenda – effective and lasting results cannot be achieved. Sweden will continue to support women’s organisations and participation, in cooperation with civil society and through the UN, and let me now especially thank the many civil society organisations that are with us here today and throughout this Committee for their significant contributions and hard work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.