Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Bangladesh remains concerned over the far-reaching security implications and the grave humanitarian consequences of conventional weapons and their proliferation as well as illicit transfer or diversion.

In view of the staggering size of international trade in conventional weapons, and its correlation with exacerbating armed conflicts around the world, we believe this issue deserves to be factored into the comprehensive notion of ‘sustaining peace’ adopted by Member States this year to address the entire spectrum of conflict prevention to peacebuilding.

We also find it logical to address the threats posed by illicit flow of arms and ammunition under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recommend this Committee to remain mindful of the potential contribution of its work towards realizing the SDG target 16.4, in particular.

Bangladesh is a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its five Additional Protocols. We were the first South Asian country to become party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMB). We remain the only signatory state from the region to the Arms
Trade Treaty (ATT). We attach importance to further strengthening our national capacity for implementing the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA on SALW). We have records of reporting to the UN Register on Conventional Arms, and continue to follow further developments with its reporting template.

We underscore the importance of leveraging the possible interface and complementarities among these instruments within their respective scopes. It is critical that the reporting obligations under these instruments do not overstretch the capacity of Member States with resource constraints.

Mr. Chairman,

The CCW and its Additional Protocols provides a platform for convening the major producers and users of the certain conventional weapons, and helps strike a balance between the humanitarian and security imperatives that many seek to achieve.

The Fifth Review Conference of the CCW in December has the opportunity to advance the dialogue on international legal and regulatory framework on certain advanced convention weapons pursuant to the Convention’s objectives and purposes. Bangladesh looks forward to constructive discussions on the recommendations made concerning lethal autonomous weapons system (LAWS) by the informal meeting of experts held in April. We recognize the potentials for addressing the challenges posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including their use by terrorists and other non-state groups, under the purview of the CCW. Bangladesh has this year decided to co-sponsor the Resolution on IEDs steered by Afghanistan.

We await the conclusion of the ongoing working on the CCW’s Additional Protocol VI on Cluster Munitions, which we believe would help further evolve our policy consideration of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We
acknowledge the merit of advancing discussions on reducing harms caused by explosive devices with wide area effect in populated areas.

Bangladesh looks forward to the 15th Meeting of State Parties of the Ottawa Convention later this year to review progress with implementing the Cartagena Action Plan. Bangladesh's peacekeepers deployed in various post-conflict settings have contributed to mine clearance, as we continue to advance our work on a national implementing legislation with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh welcomes the consensus-based outcome of the 6th Biennial Meeting of States on the UN PoA on SALW, and appreciate its consideration of the policy, legal and regulatory implications of emerging issues with modular weapons, three-dimensional printing of small arms, and use of polymer frames and additive manufacturing techniques. We underscore the importance of strengthening international cooperation to help developing and least developed countries to improve their regulatory and tracing capacity in tandem with such new developments and challenges.

We acknowledge various offers of technical assistance from the UN and other development partners to further strengthen our legal, institutional and technological capacity to facilitate our eventual accession to and compliance with ATT. While we continue to follow the work of the Meetings of the State Parties to ATT as an observer, we reiterate that signatory states be exempted from any additional obligations beyond the in-principle commitments they have undertaken.

I thank you.