Mr. Chairperson,

Small arms and light weapons continue to be the weapons of choice in armed conflicts and violence around the world. As a result of this vast scale, they have become the de facto weapons of mass destruction of our age and a dire threat to international peace and security. We cannot just stand idly by. Indeed, the international community can and must work harder to impede the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of these weapons.

In this context, it is of vital importance to implement the UN Program of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). We welcome the outcome document of the Third Review Conference on the Implementation of the UNPoA last June. We believe that this meeting surely has enlarged the basis for more substantive efforts to control small arms and light weapons.

In joining the international efforts, the Republic of Korea, together with Australia, has been tabling a resolution on “Preventing and Combating Illicit Brokering Activities” since 2008. This year it will be the last time that we table this resolution which have enjoyed a broad support from the member states.
for the past ten years. Such decision is based on our joint assessment that this resolution has fulfilled its purpose in advancing unified efforts especially with the effectuation of the ATT which addresses illicit brokering activities in a much broader context. We hope that our decision to fade out an existing resolution will set a positive precedent in our effort to streamline the work of the First Committee.

Mr. Chairperson,

As one of the original signatories of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), we would like to reaffirm our strong support to this very first legally binding document that provides standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons on a global level.

My delegation welcomes the progress made for the five years since its adoption, and looks forward to further efforts in its three core pillars: universalization, effective implementation, and transparency and reporting.

Universalization is of particularly relevance in Asia, given low membership in the region. Considering how the ATT directly supports the Sustainable Development Goal 16 and has spillover effect on other important development goals including gender equality, broader regional membership is an issue that the Republic of Korea intends to focus on over the process toward the 5th Conference of States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) as an effective platform to address humanitarian concerns while taking into account legitimate security needs as well as military necessities. In this regard, my delegation believes that more efforts should be done toward the universalization of the Convention and, in this context, we appreciate the sponsorship program which serves as a useful tool to
encourage relevant countries to join and implement the CCW. We also believe that more efforts should be made to address the threat posted by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and in this context, we welcome the adoption of the "IEDs Declaration" at the Fifth Review Conference of the CCW.

We also welcome the recent adoption of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) which is another meaningful outcome of the CCW process this year. My delegation hopes that we can draw on this year’s achievement and further deepen our understanding on outstanding issues next year, including the human-machine interactions related aspects, within the framework of the GGE.

Lastly, my delegation would like to express our concern over the financial situation of the CCW. We believe that it would be in everyone’s interest to find a feasible solution and thus create a more stable environment for future discussions.

(On a separate note, although the environment is still premature for my government to accede to the Convention on the Anti-Personnel Landmines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it aligns itself with the humanitarian spirits of the two Conventions. As such, the Republic of Korea has actively participated in the related CCW discussions and tried to expand its international cooperation for the victims of landmines and cluster munitions. The Republic of Korea will continue to work closely with the international community to address concerns arising from them.)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. /End/