Mr. Chairman,

Turkey aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. The following are a few remarks in our national capacity.

The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) pose a significant threat to peace and security as well as to the social and economic development of many countries. Death toll resulting from SALW – more than 500 thousand people every year - is alarming. There is also an undeniable relationship between illicit trade in SALW and terrorism and organized crime. Therefore, Turkey strongly supports international cooperation to combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW within the framework of all international fora. The UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects is a milestone in placing this issue firmly on the international agenda. In this respect, full and comprehensive implementation of the UN Programme of Action, as well as strengthening it with new measures in accordance with evolving security needs bear significant importance. We welcome the outcome achieved at the 3rd Review Conference of the Program of Action under the Presidency of France, as we attach importance to maintaining consensus regarding the PoA, which we see as a valuable instrument. We are also committed to strengthening the International Tracing Instrument.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is an important step for a universal and legally binding mechanism that sets common standards at the highest possible level to regulate the exports, imports and transfers of conventional arms. It also supports the implementation of the SDG 16 Target 4 (to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows strengthen the recovery and stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime). Since its outset, we have actively participated in the process, thereafter signing the Treaty. Pending its ratification, we look forward to acceding to the Treaty in the near future.

Being a member of all four export control regimes, Turkey already has in place a robust export control mechanism and implements the related principles meticulously.

Turkey is fully conscious of the human sufferings and casualties caused by the irresponsible and indiscriminate use of Anti-Personnel Land Mines (APLM). The Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention constitutes the major international instrument aimed at eliminating these mines as well as preventing their use, production, stockpiling and transfer. As a party and strong supporter of the Convention, Turkey has completed its
commitment relating to Article 4, destroying a total of approximately 3 million antipersonnel mines.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is an indispensable part of the international law on "conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects". Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is a party and encourages adherence to this fundamental international regime.

Issues such as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) continue to be important. Turkey is concerned by the increasing global impact of IED attacks worldwide, in particular through the perpetration of terrorist acts. We believe that the UN has an important role to play in addressing the problem of IEDs.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate my country’s commitment to international cooperation in all the issues we will be addressing under this cluster.

Thank you.