Final UN Conference on the ATT
Statement delivered by Mexico on behalf of 108 States

New York, 18 March 2013

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of the following States:

1. Albania  36. Estonia  73. The Netherlands
3. Antigua and Barbuda  38. Finland  75. Nigeria
5. Austria  40. Gambia  77. Palau
6. Australia  41. Germany  78. Papua New Guinea
7. The Bahamas  42. Ghana  79. Peru
8. Bangladesh  43. Greece  80. Poland
10. Belize  45. Guatemala  82. Romania
11. Belgium  46. Guinea  83. Rwanda
12. Benin  47. Guinea Bissau  84. Saint Lucia
15. Burundi  50. Honduras  87. Samoa
17. Cape Verde  52. Iceland  89. Senegal
19. Chad  54. Ireland  91. Sierra Leone
20. Chile  55. Italy  92. Slovakia
22. Comoros  57. Japan  94. South Africa
23. Congo  58. Kenya  95. South Sudan
24. Costa Rica  59. Latvia  96. Spain
25. Cote d’Ivoire  60. Liberia  97. Suriname
26. Croatia  61. Liechtenstein  98. Swaziland
27. Cyprus  62. Lithuania  99. Switzerland
28. Czech Republic  63. Luxembourg  100. Sweden
29. Democratic Republic of Congo  64. Ghana  101. Togo
30. Denmark  65. Madagascar  102. Trinidad and Tobago
31. Djibouti  66. Malawi  103. Turkey
32. Dominica  67. Mali  104. Uganda
33. Dominican Republic  68. Malta  105. United Kingdom
34. El Salvador  69. Mexico  106. Uruguay
35. Equatorial Guinea  70. Montenegro  107. Vanuatu
Mr. President,

We speak on behalf of countries from different regions that share a common goal. We have worked for a long time to adopt a legally binding instrument establishing the highest possible common international standards for the international transfer of conventional arms.

We are here today to finalize the work that we were unable to conclude last July, in order to reach this common goal.

We recognize that the unregulated trade of conventional arms and their diversion to the illicit market are contributory factors to armed conflict, the displacement of people, transnational organized crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development.

The overwhelming majority of Member States agree with us on the necessity and the urgency of adopting a strong Arms Trade Treaty. Our voice must be heard.

We continue from where we left off in July, committed to strengthening the text that is the basis of our work.

This text needs considerable improvement in order to reach our objective. The text cannot be ambiguous: we are adopting a treaty that requires clear legal language. We also need to address the existing loopholes that remain in the text. The text needs to better reflect existing international legal norms, standards and principles. The scope of the Treaty -including ammunition-, the prevention of diversion, the criteria for assessment, and the implementation, are some of the areas that need to be strengthened.

A weak ATT could serve to legitimize the irresponsible and illegal arms trade. This is an outcome we must avoid.

We are determined to adopt an Arms Trade Treaty that would bring about a safer world for the sake of all humanity.

As was the case last July, we are ready to make every effort to achieve an Arms Trade Treaty that makes a real difference to the people of the world.

Thank you.