

P5 STATEMENT AT THE 3<sup>rd</sup> PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON AN ARMS TRADE  
TREATY

12 July 2011

Mr Chairman,

I am taking the floor on behalf of The People's Republic of China, France, The Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, and The United States.

Mr Chairman,

We wish to commend you on the way you have handled our discussions thus far. We support efforts aimed at establishing an international instrument on the transfer of conventional weapons that could contribute to solving key problems resulting from the illicit trafficking and uncontrolled proliferation of conventional arms on a global scale.

The work undertaken to date is an important contribution to the step-by-step process, which we five countries agree must be pursued within the UN framework and whose final decisions will be adopted strictly on the basis of consensus. To be effective it should be aimed at achieving specific goals and objectives arising from the key issues of critical importance for all UN member states with regard to the uncontrolled proliferation and subsequent illicit trafficking of conventional weapons.

Our countries agree that our document is not a disarmament treaty nor should it affect the legitimate arms trade or a state's legitimate right to self-defence. The decision to transfer arms is an exercise in national sovereignty, and any instrument in this field must keep this principle at its core.

An effective instrument would help curb the illicit trade in conventional weapons that is undermining security and prosperity. All states share responsibilities to ensure that weapons transferred are not diverted for illicit purposes or illicit activities

For it to be effective it should be simple, short and easy to implement. Domestic implementation in accordance with national legislation and regulations in line with the obligations that would arise from any possible ATT would be the most practical way to address implementation.

Mr Chairman,

Finally, we should also note at this stage that you have our continued support for your role in this process up to and including at the Diplomatic Conference in 2012.