

14 FEBRUARY 2012

**INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR JO ADAMSON, UK HEAD OF DELEGATION AND
UK AMBASSADOR TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement delivered on 13 February on behalf of the European Union.

We have heard some important interventions this morning. Ambassador Dell Higgle of New Zealand talked about the value of the Chairman's draft which we received last July. I agree with Ambassador Higgle that we should use this as a starting point for our negotiations in July. We have less than four weeks to conclude the Treaty, and we are not starting with a blank page. We cannot start from *tabula rasa*.

I would like to comment on the draft Rules of Procedure, where I think we are basically down to discussion of three points, in Rule 33, Rule 57 and Rule 63 (d). There seems to be broad agreement on the rest of the text.

On Rule 33, the United Kingdom can accept the Chairman's draft language but we recognize that Ambassador Moritan is, as usual, making extensive efforts to find a formula which will find consensus.

On Rule 57, we had suggested the addition of the words "and Main Committees" after "Plenary".

On Rule 63 (d), we had suggested we refer to "meetings" (plural), and I want to underline that I see the value of inputs from the broad community of stakeholders – NGOs, industry and those who can advise us on implementation of the Treaty. I have a personal motto - "Negotiate as though implementation mattered" - and I believe that NGOs and other stakeholders can give valuable inputs to help with implementation issues.

I believe that the Rules of Procedure must be a way to allow us to complete our work in July expeditiously and in an inclusive manner. We will need to find practical ways to do this. I am happy to lend UK support to the proposal by Caricom to allow all delegations to keep up with developments in the ATT Negotiating Conference.

I was struck by the comment of our Swedish colleague who referred to the need to work in partnership in July. I very much agree with him. The United Kingdom sees the conclusion of the Arms Trade Treaty on 27 July as a milestone which we must reach together. But it is not the end of the process, rather the platform for a future partnership

Mr. Chairman.

I will not dwell at length on substance as you have set aside an agenda item for that. But I want to reiterate that the United Kingdom seeks a robust and effective, legally binding Arms Trade Treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional arms. This has been the British Government's strong commitment since we began the process in 2006, in partnership with the Co-Authors whom I thank for traveling together with us. It remains our strong commitment now and you will see it from the UK team this week. I work in the Foreign Office where ministers have changed over this time but the strong commitment of the government to the ATT has **never** changed.

Finally Mr Chairman, I take it as a good sign that those states which abstained on UNGA Resolution 64/68 in October 2009 are now so concerned about how Operative Paragraph 5 of that Resolution will be implemented, and how the Conference in July will work. I see this as a sign that they want to be engaged in how we will collectively reach the milestone of an Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you Mr Chairman.