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Statement by

Mr. Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Counsellor
Arms Control Department, MFA

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Second Conference of State Parties

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General Exchange of Views

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Mr. President,

At the outset please allow me to thank you, Ambassador Imohe, for your relentless efforts and your hard work in the preparation process of this Second Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. A special thank is also given to the members of the Management Committee (Cote d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, France, Jamaica and Japan), to the Secretariat and UNDP Geneva which supported the treaty during its first steps, as well as to the Vice Presidents of this conference (Costa Rica, Finland, Montenegro and New Zealand); all have shown much dedication and enthusiasm, contributing to the efforts of putting the ATT on the right course.

Mr. President,

Israel has long recognized the importance of controlling the export of arms and therefore maintains a robust legislation, regulations and norms aimed at governing the export of arms, their munitions and their components. Since 2007 Israel updates its export control regime so that it would fully address the challenges associated with preventing of equipment, technology and services from falling into the hands of terrorist groups, countries that support them as well as to transnational crime organizations. Israel attaches great importance to its export control regulations as a key instrument in the efforts to curb and prevent the irresponsible spread of arms around the world, and as a mean of diminishing the threat posed by hostile, belligerent and oppressive regimes as well as non-state actors.

Mr. President,

Israel has been an active and constructive actor throughout the negotiation of the ATT and was pleased to become a signatory state to this important instrument since its inauguration. However Mr. President, the Middle East region, our neighborhood, is the one with the least representation at the ATT; Israel, centered at the heart of the Middle East, is an unfortunate witness, on an unrelenting basis, to the consequences of illicit trafficking of arms. Arms that are sold in unparalleled

quantities and qualities, diverted, exported, transferred and looted in our region with little regard to international standards. Arms that are deliberately transferred and proliferated or end up through inadequate controls in the hands of terrorist organizations and countries that support them that intentionally and indiscriminately target civilian population and civilian infrastructure.

Mr. President,

Israel took part in the preparatory process leading to this Conference and will continue to actively cooperate regarding all issues that are still to be addressed and ironed out. We believe that the Arms Trade Treaty is an important step in the international community's fight against illegal arms trade, while taking into consideration national security concerns. The efficient implementation of the treaty is based on national commitment and we affirm Israel's highest standards of responsibility in this regard. We wish for a successful outcome of this important conference.

I thank you.