

**EGYPT**



**مصر**

The Permanent Mission of Egypt  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Statement by**

**Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations**

**on Behalf of the Arab Group**

**Before  
Cluster four of the first committee:  
The Debate on Conventional Weapons**

New York, 23 October 2012,

Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Egypt delivers this statement on behalf of the Arab Group. The Arab Group aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

The Arab Group welcomes the success of the second UN conference to review the progress made in implementing the UN Programme of Action to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and would like to express its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Joy Ogwu the Permanent representative of Nigeria and President of the Conference on her efforts and the efforts exerted by the four facilitators which one of them was an Arab country, namely Egypt, to adopt the final document of the Conference. The Arab Group participated actively with the objective of achieving the successful outcome. The Group reiterates its continued adherence to the commitments contained in the Programme of Action, and the International Tracing Instrument; and that any additional issues and concepts, are just proposals subject to further consensus.

The Arab Group would also like to refer to the tireless efforts exerted by all participating states at the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. The Arab Group had also welcomed the adoption of the Rules of Procedure, which stated that all substantive decisions of the conference have to be reached by consensus. The Group was keen on participating actively in the work of the conference and contributing to the creation of all conditions needed for its success, including through Morocco which was the chairman of the First Committee of the Conference. We reiterate that the success of the negotiations on the treaty depends on reaching a balanced treaty reflecting the interests of all the states participating in the negotiations, including the State of Palestine.

In view of the Arab Group, an acceptable outcome on all elements of the treaty can only be reached through the multilateral framework of the United Nations, and that the draft treaty has to be consistent with the content and principles of the Charter, especially the legitimate right of States to self-defense and to preserve territorial integrity, the right of self-determination, the inadmissibility of foreign occupation, and the rights to produce, export, import, and transfer conventional arms. The draft treaty must also take into account the balance of responsibilities between the arms exporting and importing states. Any criteria developed by the treaty to regulate arms exports must also be based on clear legal instruments, including relevant instruments of international humanitarian law, and decisions of

the relevant United Nations organs. The Treaty should also provided for recourse to arbitration in cases of refusal to export on subjective basis of or in case a state exploits the treaty for political purposes. Similarly the issue of international cooperation and international assistance has be given the necessary attention, and no doubt that the assistance topic should be dealt with under the compulsory part of the treaty. The Arab Group also emphasizes the need of the entry into force of the treaty to be associated with the ratification of a sufficient number of countries, taking into account the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the member states of the United Nations.

In this context, the Arab Group reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense and security needs. They emphasized that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

The Arab Group calls for dealing with the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and the developing Countries, including Arab Countries.

Mr. Chairman

The Arab Group engaged positively with the call for the continuation of negotiations on the treaty in the framework of the Conference that will be held in March 2013. The group suggested in this context some constructive amendments to the draft resolution presented in this regard, in order to bring more balance to its elements, including with regard to the participation of the State of Palestine.

Mr. Chairman

The Arab Group expresses its concern about the explosive remnants including the remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some Arab Countries. They called on the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories including during Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries, inter alia, through information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.

Thank You