



# **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Statement by**

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**at the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons**

**of the First Committee of the 69th Session**

**of the General Assembly of the United Nations**

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Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would now like to add a few points in my national capacity.

The Czech Republic considers the universal legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) a milestone in the development of internationally agreed standards to regulate the still unregulated global trade in conventional weapons. We therefore welcome its entry into force in December 2014, to which we contributed by depositing our instrument of ratification at a joint ceremony here in New York on 25 September this year. The Czech Republic has a robust export control system and participates in the work of all international export control regimes including the Wassenaar Arrangement. We stand ready to participate fully in the work of the ATT, work towards the Treaty's universalisation and contribute to its effective implementation in other countries.

The Czech Republic reiterates its strong support for the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Universality of the CCW and its Protocols remains one of our highest priorities. As part of our designated chairmanship of the Eighth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to take place in November this year, we have been promoting adherence to the CCW and its Protocol V through a number of bilateral contacts and outreach. Further to that, the Czech Republic has been coordinating the issue of assistance and cooperation to help address the impact of explosive remnants of war on civilian populations. An important issue of this year's CCW agenda, lethal autonomous weapons systems proved the relevance and flexibility of the Convention on new emerging areas of weapons systems. The Czech Republic sees the merit in continuing the discussion on different aspects of the LAWS in 2015.

The Czech Republic further welcomes the substantial progress achieved at the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), held in Maputo in June this year. Regarding the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), we would like to reiterate our strong support for the Vientiane Action Plan and express our deep concern over reported use of cluster munitions in Syria, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

Each year small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition cause the death of and injure hundreds of thousands of people, including women and children. Their illicit trade and excessive accumulation adversely affect regional and international security and stability. The Czech Republic continues to support measures to ensure adequate marking of and record keeping for SALW and to strengthen cooperation in tracing illicit SALW. We agree that emerging technologies offer new opportunities and should be further considered in the implementation of the 2005 International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit SALW. We also strongly believe that the entry into force of the ATT will help to reduce the illicit trade in SALW. Ratification by States facing the problem of illicit SALW most urgently, especially in Africa and Latin America, therefore needs to be promoted.

I thank you for your attention.