

[agenda item 97 - "General and complete disarmament"]

**Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms**

*The General Assembly,*

*(pp1) Guided* by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law,

*(pp2) Recalling* its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991 entitled "Transparency in armaments", 51/47B "Report of the Disarmament Commission, 51/45N "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures", 55/33 U of 20 November 2000 entitled "Transparency in armaments", 56/24 V of 24 December 2001 entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", 60/69 of 8 December 2005 entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", 60/82 of 8 December 2005 entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms", and 60/226 of 11 January 2006 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

*(pp3) Recognising* that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*(pp4) Reaffirming* the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*(pp5) Acknowledging* the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self defence and security needs, and in order to participate in peace support operations,

*(pp6) Recalling* the obligations of all States to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

*(pp7) Reaffirming* our respect for international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other applicable international instruments,

*(pp8) Taking note of* and encouraging relevant initiatives, undertaken at the international, regional and subregional levels between states, and including those of the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and civil society, to enhance cooperation, improve information exchange and transparency and implement confidence building measures in the field of responsible arms trade,

*(pp9) Deeply concerned* that the unrestrained sale and transfer of conventional arms greatly increases the potential for conflict, displacement of people, crime, and terrorism,

*(pp10)Also deeply concerned* at the negative impact that the unrestrained sale and transfer of conventional arms has on peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development,

*(pp11)Noting* the growing support across all regions for concluding an effective international legal instrument establishing common principles and standards for regulating international trade of conventional arms,

*(pp12)Acknowledging* that an effective international instrument, negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, to establish high standards of regulation in the international trade of conventional arms would help to prevent, combat and eradicate those sales or transfers of such arms which would be likely to increase the potential for conflict, displacement of people, crime and terrorism,

*(op1)Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing international standards for the import, export, and transfer of conventional arms and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

*(op2)Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, within available resources, and on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, commencing no later than 2008, to examine the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session;

*(op3)Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide the group of governmental experts with any assistance and services that may be required for the discharge of its tasks;

*(op4)Decides* to include in the provisional agenda for its sixty-second session the item entitled "Towards an Arms Trade Treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".