Thank you Madam Facilitator.

Control Arms considers the work and ambition of this sub-working group as very productive and promising and we are happy to see that we have so much time today to conduct in-depth analysis of this critical element of the ATT. We also support the elaboration of the multi-year work plan for this sub-working group.

As mentioned on earlier occasions we strongly believe it is important to link our discussions to concrete, real-world, cases of diversion (anonymised or otherwise) and to share lessons learned from past experience with the aim of better understanding how to prevent and combat arms diversion.

We wish to stress the importance of involving enforcement as well as export control officials - including from Customs and intelligence agencies - and other relevant professionals in the development of the multi-year work plan, and in all the deliberations of the sub-working group. These individuals have a wealth of experience to share and are also the ones dealing with diversion directly, and are ultimately tasked with implementing some of these policies and measures to prevent diversion. Non-governmental and civil society investigators and researchers with their specific knowledge and expertise should also be involved.

We note the comments that have been made to involve the private sector and in this regard we recommend involving not only manufacturers and exporters, but also brokers and those involved in providing or arranging transportation services.

Madam facilitator, before I conclude, I wish to reiterate that Control Arms considers it crucial that also national and regional exchanges on diversion are facilitated as part of and in parallel with this sub-working group’s efforts. Facilitating regional exchanges among all parties involved in the transfer chain - export licencing officials, brokers, shipping companies, customs agents and other relevant actors - would add value to the multi-year work-plan, strengthening its understanding of regional-specific patterns of diversion.

Thank you.