Mister President,

As this is the first time Latvia takes the floor, allow me congratulate you on your nomination as President of this Review Conference and assure you of the full support of the Latvian delegation. Latvia is also honoured to assume its position as Vice-Chair the CCW Sixth Review Conference.

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Mister President,

Latvia remains firmly committed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols and supports efforts aimed at universalization.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is a vital instrument of international humanitarian law. It balances military necessity with humanitarian concerns, and provides a unique forum bringing together military, legal and diplomatic expertise. We call on all States already party to abide by their obligations under the CCW.

We regard CCW as an important forum to increase awareness of the existing challenges and to address emerging issues. Therefore, we welcome and continue to support the work undertaken by the Group of Government Experts related to emerging technology in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). Latvia recognizes the CCW as the appropriate forum for discussions on this matter.

Furthermore, it is vital to work on issues related to the financial situation of the Convention. We regret that financial and administrative matters still demand our attention, despite the continuous efforts. The only real solution to the problem is that all participating States pay their dues in full and on time.

Mister President,

Latvia attaches great importance to building and sustaining confidence in compliance. Since joining the CCW Latvia has carried out all of its national reporting obligations. We encourage all High Contracting Parties to submit the annual reports on compliance with the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols, thereby developing mutual trust and creating transparency.

Mister President,

I would like to assure you of Latvia’s continued efforts in promoting the principles of the CCW and its Protocols. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the Implementation Support Unit for its work.

Let me conclude, Mister President, by wishing you the best of luck to steer the work of the CCW Sixth Review conference to a successful conclusion.

I thank you.