Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for inviting me to this conference to share my *prior experience on promoting Small Arms and Light Weapon regulations and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)* and *the importance of complying with the reporting requirements under the ATT and the UN Program of Action on SALW*. I shall mention two difficulties we experienced in the beginning and two factors that helped the process. Then I will pass on to S*enator Stephen Zargo who is a current S*enator and in a better position to speak on the government reports.

**Two difficulties we experienced in the process in Liberia**

- The Defense Committees of both houses of the Legislature were chaired by members of former warring factions. This made it difficult for civilian authorities in the new government and within civil society t to trust these committees. Keeping the Liberian Legislature updated with security information of extending us invitation to security related meetings was difficult.

- The Defense Committee of both houses and other members of the both houses were former warring faction members who had very little political will to prioritize decision-making on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

**Two factors that helped the process in Liberia**

- Our prior involvement with civil society work on small arms before we became part of government helped us to make us acceptable to civilian authorities including UN and others working to collect small arms and light weapons regulation from non-state actors in Liberia

- Invitations from the PGA helped us to get on \Liberian Government delegations attending the Preparatory Conference meetings at the UN in New York.

Today we are lucky to have someone who has worked with Liberian civilians and the UN partners on small arms regulation activities, now serving as the chairman of the Defense Committee of the Liberian Senate. I feel he is in a better position to give you more information about the reporting requirements on the ATT and the UN program of Action on SALW and on progress made since 2014.