Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the chairman of this Committee as well as the other members of the Bureau on their election. We are confident that under your competent leadership we will be able to achieve significant results in our work. Let me assure my delegation’s full readiness to cooperate with you during the work of the First Committee.

At the outset I would like to say that Georgia fully associates itself with the Statement made by the Swedish Chairmanship of the European Union on 5th of October, 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

In my brief remarks I would like to express our views on the issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the regulation of global trade in conventional
arms, the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons, and the impact these issues are having on the situation in my country.

Nuclear non-proliferation - we are looking forward to the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty which is scheduled to take place in 2010. Universal accession to the Treaty is essential and therefore we would like to join other speakers in calling upon those members states, which are not parties to the Treaty, to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Another vital instrument which contributes to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We believe that the treaty needs to enter into force in the nearest future. We also believe that its verification mechanism should be completed without further delay.

My delegation would like to commend the work of the Conference on Disarmament, which, after a decade of stalemate, agreed a Programme of Work and considers it as a positive development. We are looking forward for the continuation of this encouraging dynamic during the next year’s session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The issue of regulation of global trade in conventional arms – we have had a chance on a number of occasions to express our full support to the International Arms Trade Treaty initiative. Indeed, this mechanism must be considered as an effective instrument in the field of non-proliferation of conventional arms.

As many speakers in this hall emphasized, the illicit manufacture, accumulation, transfer and flow of small arms and light weapons remains to be one of the most challenging topics to the international security agenda.

Existence of so called white spots and occupied territories, where international control mechanisms are either very weak or non-existent, creates fertile ground for
the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear materials, accumulation and illicit transfers of conventional arms.

As all of you you are well aware, huge amount of armaments is being accumulated in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. As long as international control mechanisms cannot be exploited in those territories there are no guaranties whatsoever that these arms including those especially dangerous like MANPAD would not be transferred to various terrorists and criminal groups, which would pose serious threat not only to one particular region but to the whole international community.

Georgia joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and continues to support consolidating efforts of the international community to combat illicit acquisition, usage or transportation of nuclear materials and radioactive substances.

The fact that in recent years there were several attempts of nuclear smuggling via Georgian territories uncontrolled by the central authorities further amplify the sense of danger. Due to effective measures carried out by the Georgian law enforcement bodies these attempts were prevented. It should be emphasized though that these smuggling attempts occurred, in the time when there were some international control mechanisms on the ground in so called white spots. In the absence of the international presence in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, it has become impossible to conduct any type of verification activities there and therefore the risk of proliferation of nuclear materials and weapons of mass destruction has tremendously increased.

Mr. Chairman,

As I said, I would like to take this opportunity to draw you attention to the impact these issues are having on the situation in my country. As I speak before you, two regions of my country remain under illegal foreign occupation.

Our northern neighbor continues its illegal military buildup in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, in grave violation of the six-point agreement,
brokered by the European Union, as well as the CFE Treaty. Instead of being disbanded, the Gudauta Military Base, which had to be shut down in accordance with the Istanbul Joint Statement of 1999, is being reinforced. Overall, there are up to 10,000 occupational troops located in the illegal military bases in these two regions, namely in Tskhinvali, Djava, Sokhumi, Gudauta and Ochamchire.

At the same time we have heard about the need to establish new security architecture from the representatives of this very country, which is still challenging existing universal security arrangements, the country that fails to implement its obligations undertaken vis-à-vis the international community, while continues to grossly violate the UN Charter, norms and principles of the international law, and the six point agreement. We are confident that the implementation of existing obligations must be a necessary precondition for any meaningful discussion on new European security architecture.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that in these circumstances, it is an appropriate time for the international community to stand up for the principles enshrined in the UN charter.

Thank you.