Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, on behalf of my delegation, on your election as the Chairman of this session of the First Committee and wish you and the members of the Bureau every success in your important work. The delegation of Serbia assures you of its readiness to engage constructively, in full cooperation with you, in our collective endeavor of making the world a safer and more peaceful place.

In addition to traditional threats, the new millennium has brought new challenges to international security that have a serious impact on the international community as a whole. Serbia believes that pro-active multilateralism has an indispensable role in addressing those challenges in an effective and sustainable way. It is convinced that effective multilateralism in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament is not only necessary but also possible if the spirit of cooperation, compromise and flexibility, as well as a common vision and strategic foresight are embraced by all. Moreover, this approach, in the view of my country, has no alternative in a world of increasing interdependence and complexity in which common challenges require common solutions.

Serbia supports all efforts aimed at strengthening global security and promoting international stability. It has acceded to all major international agreements in the areas of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control and is committed to a full and systematic implementation of the obligations it has assumed.

We share the conviction that risks from the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction, including the increasing danger of non-State actors, especially terrorist groups and individuals, acquiring these weapons present the greatest challenge to international peace and security today. The success of 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is of particular significance for strengthening the international regime of nuclear non-proliferation and reaffirming the NPT as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. Serbia welcomes the fact that the 2010 NPT Action Plan was agreed by consensus and that it contains a number of important measures in all three pillars of the Treaty. Intensified joint efforts are required in order to translate conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 NPT Review Conference into concrete results significantly contributing to the continued vitality of the Treaty and thus pave the way to a world free of nuclear weapons. The forthcoming new cycle of the NPT review process will be an opportunity to assess the practical achievements in the implementation of the Action Plan and define the ways to boost the progress in this regard.

My country is committed to a consistent fulfilment of its obligations under the NPT and has taken extensive legislative, regulatory and other measures for the implementation of the Treaty. Since 2007, Serbia
regularly submits the Annual Declaration related to the application of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC). Also, significant progress has been made regarding strengthening physical protection of nuclear objects and overall nuclear safety and security, including the establishment of the Agency for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and Nuclear Safety. Serbia has ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Also, procedures for the governmental approval for adhering to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Radioactive Waste Management are underway, as well as intensive activities aimed at further improving the national system for emergency preparedness and response.

Active cooperation is also established with the IAEA. The project VIND - Vinca Nuclear Decommissioning Programme - on the transfer of irradiated nuclear fuel and enriched uranium from the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science to the Russian Federation, carried out with the assistance of our international partners, is the biggest project of technical cooperation in the history of the Agency. In this way, Serbia has joined the group of countries having no enriched uranium on their territories, thus contributing in a concrete way to the prevention of nuclear terrorism. My country also joined the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in 2006 and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in 2007.

Serbia strongly supports an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) as one of the fundamental pillars of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Also, my country continues to attach great importance to the fulfilment of obligations under UNSC resolution 1540 (2004). Three years after its last report in 2008, Serbia is now in the process of preparing its new national report, aimed at updating the information on the measures taken to implement the resolution. Also, it is actively engaged in the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute knowledge management programme on the prevention of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear trafficking in South-East Europe and the Caucasus, with a view to promote the sharing of accumulated international and national experience in this area.

Serbia is committed to a full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The new Law on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction was adopted by the Serbian Parliament in May 2009. Cooperation with OPCW continues to develop in many directions, especially in the field of training and the organization of international seminars on assistance and protection in the Regional NBC Center in Krusevac, Serbia.


My country has acceded to all major international instruments in the field of combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW), including the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects, UN Firearms Protocol and the International Tracing Instrument. It has also accepted the OSCE Documents on SALW, as well as other OSCE decisions in this field, notably on the storage of conventional arms, man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), end-user certificates and verification procedures and brokering. The standards of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Trade are incorporated in the National Strategy for the Control of SALW for the period 2010-2015 and the 2005 Law on Foreign Trade in Arms, Military Equipment and Dual-Use Goods. A new Law is being drafted and it is intended to modernize the existing solutions in certain areas and fully correspond to the changes in the EU legislation and the new obligations arising from UNSC resolutions and other international instruments. Serbia continues to work on the fulfillment of the remaining obligations under the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines to which it has acceded in 2003.

Export control is a very important element of the security policy of my country. Serbia has established an effective regime of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods export control and improved border and
customs control measures. It has initiated the process to regulate its membership in the Wassenaar Arrangement and started the national procedure to regulate its status within the Nuclear Suppliers' Group. Also, the competent Serbian authorities prepared the Draft Law on International Restrictive Measures which is shared with the European Union in order to obtain its expert opinion.

The ongoing activities towards an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) are of particular importance in the context of establishing an effective international regulatory framework for transfers of conventional arms. Serbia will continue to work in close cooperation with other UN Member States in the process defined by UNGA resolution 64/48, convinced that a vigorous commitment of all of us will be necessary in order to ensure that the 2012 UN Conference produce a treaty that will set the highest possible common international standards in conventional arms transfers.

Along with other Parties, Serbia continues to implement the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control (Article IV, Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accords) which provides for the achievement of a stable military balance, based on the acceptance of numerical limitations of armaments by all the Parties, according to a baseline scale and a corresponding country-specific ratio. In the fifteen-year period of the implementation of the Agreement, Serbia carried out all obligations in a timely manner. A new stage of implementation of the Agreement, so called "Transfer of ownership to the Parties" is under way and is to be finalized by July 2014.

In order to make a full contribution to the relevant United Nations activities in the field of disarmament, my country submitted its candidature for membership in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Serbia supports the initiative to appoint a Special Coordinator on Expansion of the Membership of the Conference as a means of providing a new impetus to addressing, in its view, one of the most pressing issues of membership expansion. Convinced that the best way to reaffirm the significance of the Conference as the world's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum is to make it more efficient and effective, Serbia calls on all Member States of the Conference to invest additional efforts to overcome the ongoing stalemate and engage, seriously and without delay, in substantive discussions on core issues on its agenda in order to make a credible contribution to international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.