Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, as well as the other members of the Bureau, upon the election to the Chairmanship of the Committee. I also express my delegation’s readiness to work with you and pledge our firm support in order to achieve the ambitious goals that are ahead of us during the current session.

The past years clearly demonstrated the complexity of contemporary conflicts and the challenges involved in mounting coherent, effective international responses. In this perspective Armenia attaches great importance to the disarmament and, in particular, to the efforts of the United Nations aimed at establishing International and regional security, stability, and atmosphere of confidence.

We consider these efforts and initiatives as essential measures to contain international and regional threats and manage the instability. Arms control, reduction of armaments and ultimately disarmament - play a fundamental role in prevention of conflicts, their management and lead to confidence building and security on regional and global levels.

Thus, unconditional implementation and further strengthening of the existing disarmament and non-proliferation agreements as well as international verification mechanisms and institutions should become a priority for the international community.

Armenia acknowledges paramount importance of the inter-state cooperation in the field of security and non-proliferation. Just three weeks ago in Yerevan a national roundtable to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 and Armenia's National Implementation Action Plan, was organized by the Government of Armenia and the Conflict Prevention Center of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe in cooperation with UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.
The Round table focused on the evaluation of the resolution’s implementation and its role in general process of security, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe has been one of the pillars of European security architecture. The Treaty played a key role in bringing down the numbers of military equipment to a remarkably low level and eventually created an unprecedented culture of arms control through its information exchange and verification mechanisms.

Unfortunately, the CFE recently has been experiencing serious implementation problems. It is obvious that the new security environment in Europe needs a thorough re-assessment to be followed by putting in place a functional conventional arms control regime. No doubt that it should inherit certain components of the existing one that have proven their viability.

Mr. Chair,

More than a decade passed form the adoption of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.

While being the only global instrument in this field, it reflects the shared understanding of the common responsibility and commitment to stop the proliferation of SALW, which still constitutes a huge impediment for peace and security, growth, development and safety in the world.

We consider this international instrument as the key universal starting point to respond to the challenges posed by the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of SALW at national, regional, and global levels.

Advocating for the strengthening of international humanitarian law and fully supportive of its humanitarian goals, Armenia regards the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Mine Ban Convention as important international instruments to achieve the goal of eradication of an entire category of excessively injurious conventional weapons.

It always has been our conviction that the human and social costs of the use of anti-personnel mines, booby-traps and other explosive devices far outweigh their military significance.
Moreover, while not being a state party, Armenia implements on voluntary basis the Articles 11 and 13 of the Amended Landmine Protocol of the CCW Convention as well as presenting Annual Information in the format of the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines to the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

Given the peculiar security problems in our region, Armenia is ready to consider joining the abovementioned Conventions in case the principle of simultaneous accession by all states of the region is applied.

Mr. Chair,

Let me conclude by stressing once again the importance of continuous efforts to further improve and expand the international treaty system in the field of conventional weapons.

Armenia remains fully committed to its international obligations on arms control and disarmament. We believe that additional political will needs to be generated for the effective implementation of relevant United Nations instruments. It will unquestionably contribute to enhancing trust, building confidence, and promoting regional dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you.