STATEMENT
by Ambassador Vlad Lupan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, at the thematic debate of the UN General Assembly First Committee, 68th session, on Conventional Weapons
New York, 30 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is our first opportunity to acknowledge you at the helm of the 1st Committee, allow me to first of all begin by joining the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your election, and other Bureau members on their election as well. We are confident that your experience and skills will lead this Committee towards a successful outcome of the session and I assure you of the full support of my delegation.

I would also like to avail myself of the opportunity to express my appreciations to Ambassador Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for his efforts as the Chair of First Committee during the previous session.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova associates itself with the comprehensive statement delivered by the European Union on Conventional Weapons. We would also like to touch upon these subjects from our national perspective and underline several topics of importance to my country.

The Republic of Moldova reiterates its position that in order to achieve a genuine security at the international, regional and national levels, progress in disarmament should encompass an entire set of measures, including those aimed at conventional weapons control.

In this context, first of all, we welcome the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Arms Trade Treaty, an important legally binding international instrument that sets key international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms. The Republic of Moldova voted for, signed and expressed strong determination to ratify this Treaty as soon as possible, making with the occasion of debates in the Committee on Disarmament a clear statement that it is our strong believe that this Treaty will ensure the transparency and accountability in transfers of conventional weapons, and thus will also prevent illicit trafficking of such arms, particularly to separatist unrecognized entities. We already called our partners to support us with their expertise to help us improve our national export control legislation and practices. The European Union helped us review the legislation and came up with concrete recommendation that are now brought to implementation by the national authorities. The EU expertise was very helpful in these preparations that also bring us a step closer to ATT ratification and compliance with this treaty. We shall also mention and thank Romania for its effort in supporting our endeavors in advancing best arms control practices in the Republic of Moldova. We are certain that with the support of all involved actors we will be able to develop and strengthen further national capacities of the weapons control and adjust to the international standards the national legislation in the field of export/import of the dual use technology and military equipment, as well to improve national practices of the arms and military equipment trade.
Secondly, the Republic of Moldova also supports the development and implementation in its entirety of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as a politically binding international instrument in fighting against the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Therefore, we welcome the successful conclusion of the Second Review Conference, the consensus outcome document and those agreed practical mechanisms / steps that will enhance the implementation of the PoA. The full and effective implementation of the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument should remain a priority for the international community. We are optimistic regarding the positive outcome of the 5th Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The Republic of Moldova strictly fulfills its obligations under UN PoA and undertook additional measures in this regard – thus, in 2013, the new law regarding regime of the weapons that can be used by civilians entered into force, thus consolidating the control over weapons and munitions, as well as their use and circulation. With the support of the international community we aspire to develop a national mechanism for tracing the small arms and enhance the stockpiles management. Currently the relevant authorities are working on the task of destroying a new lot of small arms deposited at the Ministry of Interior. As it was the case with the preparations for ATT ratification, all the necessary actions aimed at destruction of previous and current lots of SALW in the Republic of Moldova, were also undertaken with the supported of our international partners. Thus, both global and regional partnerships in the fields of conventional arms control matter.

Thirdly, further developments in the implementation and to the universalization of the document of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction are encouraging. The Republic of Moldova signed and ratified the convention, and with the support of our Canadian partners destroyed all the stockpiles, as well as demined all the remaining fields in the country, including in the post-conflict areas. Furthermore, previously the Moldovan unit of de-miners contributed to the clearing of minefields in Iraq and a national discussion is underway to deploy a small mixed infantry and demining team in the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, in cooperation and with the support of Italy. This, in our understanding, is a contribution to the international security and to the goal for a full realization of the Convention. We encourage all UN member states to consider similar steps.

Fourthly, progress has been made in the implementation and universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions as well as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. On its part, my country was among the first states to destroy the inherited cluster munitions, thus gathering experience in this field that we are ready to share with other member states.

Fifth, my delegation expresses its support for the continuing activities aimed at transparency in arms control and spending and regularly submits its national reports to the UN Register on Conventional Arms and UN Report on Military Expenditure encouraging all member states to continue to do the same, as a CBM. We underlined the importance of such reports, considering
that with the UN support we could work further to achieve the desired level of transparency and data accuracy.

Sixth, we would like to particularly stress that, starting from our national experience in the field of conventional weaponry control, we strongly advocate for a combination of global and regional conventional arms control arrangements. Such a global and regional perspective has proven to be more encompassing and taking into account the realities in both small and larger states alike than only the global one. Therefore, I would like to stress that my country believes in the implementation of the global arms control arrangements and in the importance of viable and comprehensive regional arrangements, in our particular case in Europe. Thus, my country is participant to main European arrangements on conventional arms control as well as confidence and security building measures, in particular the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna Document on CSBMs. The Republic of Moldova highly values the contribution of these two cornerstone documents in ensuring military balance, security and transparency on European continent during the past two decades. At the same time, given the existing impasse around the functioning and the future of the CFE Treaty, we support the efforts aimed at revitalizing and modernizing this important arms control regime.

In this regard, we would welcome an early progress and result on conventional arms control agreement in Europe. Any future control regime in this respect should be based on a legally binding system of verifiable equipment limits, include information exchange and verification measures, as well as take full account of other relevant elements of the CFE Treaty. Such a regional regime should be in conformity with, in our case, the OSCE Helsinki Final Act principles, leaving no place for misinterpretation. Moreover, such a conventional arms control arrangement shall only strengthen the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states-parties. We firmly believe that among other important elements, a new Euro-Atlantic arrangement should reinforce the principle of host-nation consent to the stationing of foreign military forces.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova remains committed and stands ready to continue its engagement in the above mentioned topics.

Thank you.