UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
72nd Session

First Committee - General Debate

Statement by
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To the United Nations

United Nations - New York

October 10, 2017

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on the assumption of your role as the Chair of the First Committee for the 72nd session of the General Assembly. You can count on the full support of the Albanian Delegation.

Albania aligned itself with the statement made earlier by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The complexity of the security environment is increasing at a pace that requires an immediate and strong multilateral reaction both through political and diplomatic channels. The threats posed to the security landscape in South East Asia are clearly a concern for the entire international community. As our Prime Minister Edi Rama stated in his speech at the General Debate “a prolonged and recently exacerbated crisis sparked by the policy of a stubborn totalitarian and paranoid regime, has brought back the dreadful fear of nuclear confrontation”.

The unacceptable nuclear and ballistic programs advanced by North Korea, remind us to maintain the momentum of the Security Council’s unanimous actions and engage to comply with all its resolutions, 2375 included. In addition we need to focus on the imperative implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in order to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.

Albania joins other voices calling for the universalization of the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its early entry into force, which remains a major contribution toward the world’s peace and security. The overarching signature and ratification of the treaty, especially by the Member States listed in its Annex II, is of paramount importance and constitutes an undeniable contribution to the effectiveness and credibility of the CTBT towards the world security, as reaffirmed in UNSC Resolution 2310. Moreover, Albania aligns itself with others in seeking for an urgent negotiation and conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

Mr. Chairman,

At national and international levels we support the long term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and the approach based on a step-by-step global nuclear disarmament. Albania strongly supports the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime that will provide for tangible progress toward the objective of total nuclear disarmament and certainly a stable place. However, the nuclear disarmament can be neither trustworthy nor effective if certain States in possession of nuclear arms are not part of this approach and if it will not allow a verification mechanism.

The achievements that we witnessed in the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action prove that multilateralism can similarly work in reaching long lasting agreements.
For multilateralism to be effective, we should engage to keep working on the peaceful solutions already achieved and comprehensively in place. Historic achievements of the diplomacy at work, as it is the case of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) endorsed by the UN Security Council, require the engagement of all parties in achieving its full implementation.

Further reductions of nuclear arms programs require as well the indispensable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which safeguards system is fundamental for the non-proliferation regime. Albania has a Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement with the IAEA and has signed and ratified the Additional Protocol.

The nuclear security and combating of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials is of high importance. Albania is a participating State of the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and also is taking part in the global plan of the IAEA to fight against nuclear terrorism. In this regard, we have drafted a strategy and implemented all necessary measures to strengthen our capacities for fighting illegal trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Mr. Chairman,

My country attaches great importance to arms control disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, as well as to the export control regimes as means to prevent such proliferation. Therefore, Albania does not provide any form of support and/or assistance to Non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transfer or use Weapons of Mass Destruction. We fully support all international efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD-s. Concerned by the use of chemical weapons in the 21-st century, Albania supports Member States that adhere to and keep at top of their priorities the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In this regard, Albanian Government remains constantly committed to further cooperate with the international community in interdicting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and materials required to develop such weapons to states and non-states actors of proliferation concern. We have also welcomed the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 regarding the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. In this framework, we are working on a National Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, that should be approved in 2018 by the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Chairman,

Around the world citizens are under the scourge of Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation through illicit trade. The Government of Albania has committed itself to the implementation of and adherence to Pacts and International Agreements
related to SALW. These Agreements have become part of our national legislation and are constantly enhanced.

The Republic of Albania considers that regional cooperation and regional ownership are not only prerequisites for European integration, but also current necessities to transform the image of our region. This orientation of Albania’s foreign policy is reflected in our proactive participation in all initiatives and multilateral organizations operating in the region of South East Europe and beyond.

As part of the region, the Government of Albania signed/approved in May 2017, the establishment of the SALW Commission, which will be a national inter-ministerial body responsible for coordinating and monitoring SALW control activities. This commission has the duty to compile within 6-months the National Strategy of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In this regard, a process of cooperation and mutual support among countries, especially at the regional and sub-regional level, like the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), is of utmost importance. Albania is fully committed to do its part.

In the field of the international transfers of SALW in order to exercise effective control over the export, import, transit or retransfer of SALW, Albania has aligned itself to the EU Code of Conduct on arms exports, as a participatory party to agreements such as the UN Program of Action on SALW, the OSCE Documents on SALW and Ammunitions Stockpiles etc. As a part of these agreements, Albania has made substantial commitments towards responsible international arms transfer control.

Mr. Chairman,

Aware of all the negative consequences of the violence caused by the uncontrolled circulation of the arms and the weapons, Albania has shown its commitment to the universalization and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, being among the first countries that committed to the Treaty. It is our belief that this treaty will contribute to make the world a safer place; as it will help establish global standards for the regulation of the international arms trade.

The world deserves our diligence to switch from an unpredictable and threatening theater, to a peaceful and secure place for its population. We, the member states, are here at the United Nations to resolutely resolve the problems that arise in different corners of the world, our agendas are interconnected and co-dependent. There is no development without Human rights and without peace.

I thank you