Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election in the First Committee. We are looking forward to your leadership and allow me to assure you that the Georgian delegation will support and assist you in your endeavors.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on October 2; and in addition, let me add following remarks in my national capacity.
Excellences,

We live in the world fraught by security threats and challenges that are complex, dynamic, asymmetric and transnational in nature, ranging all the way from nuclear to the small arms and thus, making our work in the First Committee ever more relevant.

Nuclear proliferation is not a theoretical threat any more, but a reality that challenges our common security and peace. Nuclear arsenal build up and worsening of the security situation in the Korean Peninsula is extremely worrisome. We call upon for a diplomatic solution to this crisis in full and unconditional compliance with the existing international non-proliferation regimes, and recent UN Security Council Resolutions.

Terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the related materials and technologies is another major challenge to the global security. We see the terrorist groups such as DAESH threatening not only the nations in the Middle East but also in Europe, North America and other places across the globe.

Chances of the weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists are alarming. Rapid advancements in science and technology make exploitation of security vulnerabilities with criminal intent highly probable.

We are deeply distressed by the violent developments and security situation in the Middle East, and we condemn in the strongest terms all despicable acts of use of chemical weapons and violence against civilian population.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the importance of the threats posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and materials - also due to the fact that Georgian law enforcement agencies in cooperation with partners detected several attempts of smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials through Georgia’s regions currently under illegal foreign military occupation - Georgia actively cooperates with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) within the framework of the CBRN Centers of Excellence, to promote an integrated CBRN approach across the area of South East Europe, the Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine. We've also been discussing possible
threats emanating from the use of new technologies and artificial intelligence from CBRN and cyber security perspective within our UN Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance.

Taking this opportunity, let me inform the Committee that a donor coordination meeting on CBRN Safety and Security will be held in Tbilisi on November 3, 2017 hosted by the Interagency Coordinating Council of Georgia for Combating CBRN Threats. The meeting will be conducted under the auspices of the G7 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and is actively supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the European Commission.

Excellences,

Apart from quite legitimate concern for weapons of mass destruction, one shouldn’t forget that conventional military conflicts have not disappeared at in the 21st century. On the contrary, we still face a reality of the conventional military conflict. This is particularly true, when we speak about the threat perceptions through the prism of my country where in spite of the direct call of 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement for the withdrawal of the Russian military formations, military presence in Georgia’s occupied territories is continuing to build up.

Right now, there are fully operational Russian military bases illegally stationed in both Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Regions, each housing about 4500 militaries and 1300 FSB personnel. The bases are equipped with sophisticated offensive weaponry, which include battle tanks and various armored assault vehicles, multiple launch rocket systems, as well as SA and SS Missile systems like SA10 Grumble and SS21 Scarab.

The force structure and posture of these deployments, including the type and quantity of their military hardware, go beyond any defensive objectives and are nothing but power projection capabilities across the entire Black Sea region and the Mediterranean, hence - a security threat.

More so that there are regular military drills of Russia’s Southern Military District in occupied Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region in unprecedented numbers: around 60 in Abkhazia and 20 in Tskhinvali Region this year only. These actions are hindering the efforts of peaceful resolution of the conflict and are aimed at destabilizing the region.
Mr. Chairman,

Uncontrolled dissemination and excessive accumulation of conventional arms and ammunition represent a serious threat to international peace and security.

Georgia, as one of the vice-Presidents of the 4th Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, believes that apart from regulating trade ATT has real potential to eradicate illicit arms trade, and in this manner genuinely contribute to humanitarian objectives and fostering global peace and security.

Therefore, timely and transparent submission of national reports is at the heart of the Treaty. Georgia already submitted initial national report on the ATT implementation of the Treaty for last year and made it public; and we encourage all state parties to be on time and show transparency when submitting their annual reports.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention), BWC (Biological Weapons Convention), UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004), 2325 (2016), as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remain as most important instruments available to the international community, that we should strengthen and ensure full compliance with.

I thank you.