



# ARMENIA

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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GENERAL DEBATE

Statement by H.E. Mr. Armen MARTIROSYAN, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations

Mr. Chairman,

As this is my first intervention in this Committee, let me extend my congratulations to you and to the members of the Bureau on the election to the Chairmanship of the first Committee and to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation during the work of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The events of September 11, 2001, and the following developments revealed the growing concern over the limited progress achieved during the past years in addressing the new challenges to the international security. The memory of those events is a constant reminder to push forward the international agenda of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control with doubled efforts through strict observance of existing international instruments and strengthening of multilateralism.

The issue of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and effective export control also has gained an utmost importance.

Armenia's geographical location and the wider geopolitical neighborhood puts it in a position where it inadvertently confronts with the issues of safeguarding against traffic of weapons, delivery systems and various sensitive materials.

The nuclear safety continues to remain a matter of highest priority for my country. Armenia fully shares the objectives of the international community regarding non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. From the outset Armenia has rejected the option of developing nuclear energy other than for peaceful purposes. Being the first country in the CIS to sign the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) and its additional Protocol with the IAEA and to implement the agreement itself, Armenia is successfully moving forward towards strengthening the cooperation in this field. Shortly after the formal accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon state, my country took an obligation to

place all nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, which it fulfills successfully.

Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to take this opportunity to mention some positive and encouraging developments.

We welcome the adoption of the Code of Conduct against Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles, one of important initiatives launched by the international community towards further regulation of outstanding disarmament issues.

It is noteworthy that Cuba and Timor-Leste joined to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is a positive contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament and another step toward the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We would also very much welcome the entry into force of the US-Russian Treaty on Reductions of Strategic Offensive Weapons, also known as the Moscow Treaty. Touching upon a question of US-Russia bilateral cooperation in the field of security, I would like to mention another important topic as well.

The issue of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is on the joint US-Russia agenda and there are practically no serious disagreements. And it is the very issue, which can outweigh many others. Taking a strong hold of it, it is possible to deepen and broaden cooperation between two countries on the whole range of political and economic issues. The long-term strategic partnership between the US and Russia seems to be on the agenda of both countries and prospects hopefully are realistic. The success of such cooperation will have a positive impact not only on both countries but also on the whole system of global and regional security.

Mr. Chairman.

We believe that an effective international export control regimes play an important role in further advancement of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. My country spares no effort to strengthen its national export control system in a way that would guarantee the legitimate use and trade of the dual-use items and technologies meanwhile providing the exporter and the international community with due assurances.

My delegation is pleased to state here that the "Law on State Control over the Export of Dual-Use Items and Technologies, as well as Its Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Armenia" has gone through a first reading at the Parliament in September of this year. This piece of legislation is of great importance to Armenia as it creates the proper legislative foundation for further strengthening the export control system in the country, which is one of the key elements of the non-proliferation regime. Through the introduction of international non-proliferation criteria into the national legislation, Armenia attempts to establish an effective export control system with optimized export classification, licensing and reporting processes without inflicting unnecessary limitations to the international trade.

Mr. Chairman.

Armenia successfully cooperates with the international community in preventing illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in accordance with the Armenian Law in-effect on Arms. The Government has successfully established strict control over the small arms and light weapons on its territory. My country regularly provides updated information to the UN Registry on Conventional Arms.

However, the new threats and challenges to international security make it straightforward that small arms and light weapons cannot be considered as disarmament and arms-control dimension issues only. The effective international efforts against illicit trafficking of SALWs cannot but try to deal with it from an inclusive perspective of national, regional and international security from one side and conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building, from the other.

Armenia highly appreciates the efforts of many governments and NGOs for leading a worldwide campaign to help address the challenges posed by anti-personnel landmines. The entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines is an important step forward towards the total elimination of these extremely harmful conventional weapons. Despite security considerations and the defensive value of antipersonnel landmines, we nevertheless believe that the human and social costs of landmines far outweigh their military significance. Henceforth, Armenia embarked on taking practical steps in this regard by establishing a De-mining Center with the active support of the US government, which trains military personnel for mine-clearance. The main rationale behind the establishment of such a center is the recognition of the fact that anti-personnel landmines, buried mainly for defensive purposes, are inflicting injuries and death on non-combatant civilians in a totally indiscriminate manner. Meanwhile, Armenia's full participation in the Ottawa Convention is contingent upon a similar level of political commitment by all neighboring states.

Armenia welcomes the outcomes of the first Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We believe it reflects the growing importance of Organization against Proliferation of Chemical Weapons in combating and preventing the threat of chemical terror, also taking into account the new scientific developments in the chemical industry.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to reach the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, vigorous efforts at bilateral, regional and international levels should be pursued. Armenia stands ready to further cooperation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and to having a greater contribution in international and regional efforts towards peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.