



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Revaz Adamia
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations**

**The General Debate of the First Committee
60th Session of the UN General Assembly
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to express my delegation's congratulations on your election as the chairman of the First Committee of the 60th Session of the General Assembly. We are confident that under your capable guidance we will be able to achieve significant results in our work.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding non-proliferation and disarmament issues, which represent a pillar for the international security and peace, we attached particular significance to the 2005 United Nations Summit and Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. It is unfortunate that NPT Review Conference concluded its work without being able to reach an agreement on a substantial final document. Let me join the previous speakers and express deep regret to the fact of lack of concrete measures and recommendations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are discussing disarmament and security, I would like to draw your attention to aggressive separatism as to major threat to international peace and security. Specifically, I would like to remind you about so-called "white spots", namely the conflict zones in two secessionist regions of Georgia, that are Abkhazia and former autonomous region of South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region. Both these regions are undergoing increasingly aggressive process of militarization. What is the most cynical, the separatist enclaves are receiving military shipments from our neighboring country, the Russian Federation, through the checkpoints along the Abkhazian and South Ossetian segments of Georgian-Russian border, controlled exclusively by Russian border guards. As a result, quite a substantial amount of arms and ammunition, which are not controlled by the state and consequently are not reflected in the records of the UN Register of Conventional Arms, have accumulated on these territories.

Just recently, on September 20 2005, the South Ossetian separatists held a celebration of "independence" of the self-styled republic of South Ossetia and a military parade. This event gave a display of military detachments and armoured vehicles, in particular 3 self-propelled howitzers (2S1), 4 tanks (T-55), 4 armoured personnel carriers (BTR-70), 3 armoured combat vehicles (BMP-2), 3 120 mm mortars and 3 anti-aircraft guns ZU 23-2.

We consider this as a violation of all peace agreements related to the conflict, as well as provisions and principles of CFE Treaty - a cornerstone of European security.

Despite the Russian Federation's commitment to perform the role of principal mediator in the settlement of the conflict in former South Ossetia/Tskhinvali Region of Georgia, it continues to arm separatists, thus

providing a fertile ground for illicit smuggling of arms, as well as proliferation of nuclear and other dangerous materials.

The very existence of separatist regimes, which basically are backed by Russian militaries and state institutions, gives an opportunity to acquire arms, ammunition and even weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups.

We would like to once again underline, that the process of uncontrolled spread of armaments in the lawless territories represents a major threat to the stability of the entire region, first of all, because of their use by terrorists.

Everybody remembers terrorist attack of last year in Beslan. It is obvious that this tragic event could not happen, if the terrorists were stopped on the checkpoints that they passed unhindered numerously on their way to Beslan. The only reason why they were not stopped and properly checked was their statement that they were heading to South Ossetia. This is a bright example of how supporting separatism has a boomerang effect and in fact turns to be a support of terrorism.

Another terrorist attack in town of Gori in Georgia was performed by criminals that were trained and equipped in former South Ossetia by Russian special services. We have all evidences to confirm that. Is not it clear that such a behavior is not only against my country, but first of all against Russia itself?

One more point of our major concern is the illegal presence of the Russian military base in Gudauta, on the conflict territory of Abkhazia, Georgia. This base had to be disbanded and withdrawn in as long ago as 2001. Despite the Istanbul commitments and CFE treaty obligations undertaken by Russian Federation, this military base is still operating without consent of Georgia, providing arms and military expertise to the separatist regime.

In fact, what is happening in secessionist regions of Georgia is nothing less but annexation, which simply is assertion of effective control though political, economic and military means over the territory of another state.

Mr. Chairman,

Regretfully, these facts, as well as similar developments, which continually take place in the conflict zones on the territory of Georgia, are beyond the national and international disarmament and non-proliferation control mechanisms. But they still are the basic problems which this distinguished committee should handle!

In this regard, I would like to reaffirm full readiness of Georgia to cooperate with the international organizations, UN first of all, in elaborating and applying special mechanisms aimed at dealing with territories and regimes, which are out of control of the state. Particular attention should be drawn to the supporters of those enclaves, would it be states, administrative regions, governmental institutions or private organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

We have raised these problems at this distinguished forum number of times during the former debates. Time and again, we repeat that the problems that we face could not be solved based on double standards. The provisions of international law, standards of interstate relations should not vary depending on size and military might of a particular state. They must be universal. Only then we can achieve the goal of security and stability worldwide.

And this is the main task of this very organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman