



**Statement by Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili
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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. I would like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Bureau and to assure you all of the full cooperation of my delegation. We are confident that under your capable guidance we will be able to lead our work to the significant results.

Mr. Chairman,

At the time of our meeting international community is challenged by number of important issues in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and several other issues related to the international and regional peace and security.

Regarding the very issue of *non-proliferation*, Georgia is looking forward to the peaceful solution of all the issues which are of high concern to the international community. Georgia welcomes recent positive achievement during the Six-Party Talks regarding the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Concerning to the issue of regulation of global trade in Conventional arms, my country supports the initiative on *Arms Trade Treaty*, which we view as an effective instrument in nonproliferation of conventional arms.

Georgia is concerned with the challenges in implementation of the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe* (CFE). We share the position which views the CFE Treaty as an important element of the broader context of European security and therefore declaration of the RF to suspend the Treaty is a matter of high concern for my country.

Speaking of CFE treaty I would like to remind distinguished audience that despite the Istanbul commitments and CFE treaty obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation, Russian military base in Gudauta, in the secessionist region of Abkhazia has not been withdrawn so far.

Unfortunately, since 2002, regardless of numerous requests made by Georgia, no national or international monitoring teams are allowed to inspect the military base, to verify closure of the

base as it is claimed by Russian side. Till international monitoring group is not allowed to verify the current situation on the ground Georgian side considers that the commitment is not met.

Here, I would like to note that progress has been achieved in withdrawal of the Russian military bases from Batumi and Akhalkalaki.

Mr. Chairman,

The stability and security of many countries of our region are seriously hampered, by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The lawless territories controlled by a separatist regimes, remain as a serious threat to the political and economical stability of my country.

The lack of control over the secessionist regions of Georgia limits the central Government's efforts to fulfill its commitments to restrain *Small Arms and Light Weapons* proliferation across the entire territory. Both breakaway regions are undergoing increasingly aggressive process of militarization. As an example in August, the Abkhaz separatists held large scale military trainings and Tskhinvali regime conducts annual military parades.

My country attaches high importance to the fight against terrorism in all its forms, including acts involving nuclear and radioactive material. Georgia has joined recently the *Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism*. Georgia backed the principles, which aim at consolidating the efforts of the international community in order to combat acquisition, usage or transportation of nuclear materials and radioactive substances by terrorists.

There is a high risk of proliferation of nuclear materials and radioactive substances through uncontrolled territories. Unaccountable separatist regimes serve as a safe haven for illegal activities related to the proliferation of different components of WMD.

As a highlight of threat to the regional and global security posed by uncontrolled separatist regimes I would like to remind you of an incident when Georgian law enforcement units seized highly enriched uranium in South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are discussing international security issues, I would like to use this opportunity to focus the audience's attention on some developments throughout current year in Georgia.

On March 11th, the villages of Upper Abkhazia, Georgia, were subjected to the heavy shelling produced by military helicopters, entered Georgian airspace from the northern direction. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

The Joint Fact Finding Group which was in charge of the investigation approached the Russian Federation, through UNOMIG, and requested assistance in a number of aspects of the investigation. Regretfully, the efforts of the Group were destined to be incomplete because of the only reason that the Russian Federation failed to provide important information which was extremely necessary for the investigation.

This was not the only case of an air attack on Georgian sovereign territory. On August 6th, a military aircraft entered from the airspace of the Russian Federation into Georgian airspace, reaching within 40 miles of our capital, Tbilisi, and dropping a bomb on the village of Tsitelubani.

Independent Experts from seven countries being part two different groups confirmed that a foreign aircraft violated Georgian airspace and penetrated within 40 miles of our capital; this aircraft entered from Russian airspace; this aircraft fired a precision-guided missile at Georgian radar.

On 17th of September a group of armed people was detected near the construction site of new road which connects Upper Abkhazia with the rest of Georgia. On 20 September counter-Terrorist Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with the special task units of the Ministry, neutralized this group. As a result of crossfire, two members of the saboteur group were killed. Investigation carried out by UNOMIG suggested that both were former officers of Russian armed forces and members of the JPKF. Available credible information suggested that the Russian side had an operational direction of the group. Seven saboteurs remain in custody.

Based on all these evidences it seems that assistance to the separatist movements in all its aspects from the neighboring country are becoming a tendency. Such actions constitute threat to the international peace and security by undermining fundamental democratic values and endangering the primacy of international law.

These acts explicitly demonstrate urgent need to adopt all security arrangements and mechanisms to modern realities in order to ensure stability and security of our people inhabiting the conflict regions.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation raised these and related problems during the prior debates. Time and again, we have to repeat that the problems still exist and it needs prompt and adequate reaction from the international community.

Before concluding, I wish to assure you, the Georgian Delegation's full readiness to cooperate with you in your efforts to achieve the objectives and goals of this important body.

Thank you