Mr. Chairman,

Let me join all the previous speakers in congratulating you for the assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee. My delegation is confident that under your keen stewardship the Committee will have a productive session and would be successful in the endeavors you have embarked on. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Sarreva for the remarkable work during the 58th Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Every year Armenia takes the opportunity provided by the general debate to inform the Committee of its advancements in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and to share its views on the current political processes and challenges. This year is no exception.

Being a country that has adhered to non-proliferation and promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy from the day one, Armenia attaches highest importance to nuclear safety. On January 8, 2004, Armenia, being the first country in the CIS to sign it, ratified the additional Protocol to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. It entered into force on January 28, 2004.

Armenia fully supports and endorses the IAEA’s efforts to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources. In his letter to the IAEA Director-General in August 2004, Armenian Foreign Minister informed of my country’s commitment to follow and work towards the guidance contained in the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and to encourage other countries to do the same.

On September 10, 2004, during the G8 Senior Group meeting with the former Soviet Union States in Geneva, Armenia was recognized as a participant to G8 Global Action against Non-Proliferation and accepted the guidelines contained therein.
Mr. Chairman,

The Libyan example is an encouraging one. However, it made the need for additional measures to strengthen the NPT and the verification efforts even more imperative. In this respect, Armenia encourages finding a negotiated solution to the outstanding nuclear issues in the world and supports all efforts towards it.

In this age of globalization with increasing openness of borders, rapid communication and technological advancements, effectiveness of international export control regimes acquire even more significance in furthering the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. I want to stress that my country spares no effort to strengthen its national export control system that would both guarantee legitimate use and trade of dual-use items and technologies and provide the exporter and the international community with due assurances. I am pleased to state here that the “Law on State Control over and the Export of Dual-Use Items and Technologies, as well as Its Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Armenia” was ratified and entered into force at the end of 2003. In May of this year the Government of Armenia adopted a decree regulating the expertise on the dual-use items. Currently it is working on the updated national control lists.

An effective export-control implies well-trained and experienced specialists. In this respect, the disarmament and education go hand in hand. We do our best to become more experienced in this field through various regional cooperative and bilateral programs. A number of seminars and training courses have been organized in Armenia by the active support of the US government on different aspects of export control and related issues for the representatives of different government agencies.

Efficient functioning of export-control becomes more important with the increased threat of international terrorism amplified by the risk of proliferation of WMD through the acquisition of these weapons by non-state actors. Armenia supports the SC resolution 1540, which reaffirms the proliferation of WMD as a threat to international peace and security. In this respect, united efforts and development and maintenance of effective export control regimes are needed to prevent from obtaining chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Exactly a week ago Armenia became the newest subscriber to the Hague Code of Conduct against Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles thus adhering to the common goal of preventing and curbing the proliferation of ballistic missile systems capable of delivering WMD. My country considers it as one of the most important initiatives of the international community aimed at further regulation of outstanding disarmament issues and strengthening of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia believes that disarmament and non-proliferation objectives could only be achieved through vigorous and concerted efforts at bilateral, regional and international levels. Armenia stands ready to have its contribution in making our world safer and more secure.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.