Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and express my delegation’s sincere confidence that under your capable leadership we will be able to achieve considerable results in our work.

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 others related to the international and regional peace and security.

Regarding the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, Georgia welcomes the conclusions of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We are looking forward for the tangible results during the current NPT review cycle.

One of the most challenging topics to the international security is the illicit manufacture, accumulation, transfer and flow of SALW. In this regard Georgia is delighted that the 3rd biennial meeting to review the UN Programme of Action has led to the adoption of a substantive report.

As for the issue of regulation of global trade in Conventional arms, my country supports the initiative on International Arms Trade Treaty, which we
view as an effective instrument in the field of non-proliferation of conventional arms.

My country attaches high importance to the fight against terrorism in all its forms, including acts involving nuclear and radioactive materials. Last year Georgia joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Georgia supports consolidating efforts of the international community to combat acquisition, usage or transportation of nuclear materials and radioactive substances by terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

The international disarmament machinery and security mechanisms were established in order to create and sustain secure universal environment in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter. For more than a decade we have been witnessing the violation of these very principles by our neighbouring country.

I have to remind distinguished colleagues about several problems which we have been raised here during the past debates.

My delegation has been repeatedly reminding this distinguished audience that despite the international obligations accepted during 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit and CFE treaty obligations undertaken by the Russian Federation, its military base in Gudauta, in the breakaway region of Abkhazia has not been withdrawn. Since 2002, despite 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.

Last year, Georgia expressed concerns with the decision of the very same country to suspend Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). We warned the international community that this move was aimed to destroy important element of the European security and arms control measures and it will further complicate processes in the South Caucasus.

We have been expressing concerns regarding the situation in the areas of protracted conflicts, where aggressive militarization was underway. Considering very limited resources at the disposal of separatists, the source of military expertise, weapons and ammunitions was clear.
Mr. Chairman,

Although problematic issues mentioned above are of the utmost importance, the recent full-scale Russian military aggression has overshadowed them all.

The inviolability of sovereign borders, the sanctity of human rights, the supremacy of international law and the global rejection of armed aggression were put to the test by the aggression.

Foreign military troops of UNSC Permanent Member have invaded the UN member state. Our neighbour is trying to unilaterally alter the borders of a sovereign State through the use of military force. We are witnessing the results of the Russian Federation’s policy of territorial expansion.

Towns and villages were bombed and subsequently marauded; peaceful citizens were robbed, tortured, killed. Survivors were left homeless.

Russian forces and the Moscow-backed separatists perpetrated ethnic cleansing of Georgian population on the occupied territories of my country.

The civilian population and infrastructure throughout Georgia had become a direct target of the aggressive acts of the Russian Armed Forces, which breached all major principles governing means and methods of warfare under international humanitarian law, in particular violating the principle of distinction between civilian and military targets. The number of civilian targets, which were bombed or otherwise attacked, clearly indicated that it was not just collateral damage.

My delegation draws your attention to the use of cluster munitions and other types of ammunition having indiscriminate effects on civilian populations. In particular, they had extensively used missile system 9M72 "Iskander" (SS=26 Stone), short-range tactical ballistic missiles, "Tochka-U" (SS-21 Scarab), multiple launch rocket systems, "Grad" and "Uragan" and different modifications of cluster munitions. Human Rights Watch’s findings suggest that Russia used aerial cluster bombs to attack the village of Ruisi and the town of Gori on August 12. Eleven civilians were killed and dozens more injured in these two locations. In Ruisi, Human Rights Watch researchers found submunitions that they identified as PTAB 2.5M, which are known to be in Russia’s arsenal. The Russian government has yet to adequately respond to these findings.
We also experienced the first, full-scale cyber-attack, aimed to cripple Georgia’s economy and our ability to communicate with the outside world.

Apart from that the Russian forces had targeted Georgia’s ecosystem. The Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park and its adjacent territories had been purposefully bombed in order to generate a forest fire in violation of Protocol III to the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The global security and disarmament architecture faces serious threats of being destroyed by actions of the Russian Federation. Just recently, RF made a decision to establish permanent military bases on the occupied territories of the integral parts of Georgia – Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These is a consequence of military aggression and unilateral disregard of security and disarmament mechanism.

 Ironically, we have heard about the need to establish a new collective security system from the representatives of the country which is still occupying Georgia and challenging current universal security arrangements.

We believe, that in this circumstances the international community must stand up for the principles enshrined in the UN charter in order not to allow them to be crushed under the treats of invading tanks and under the boots of ethnic cleansers.

Thank you