Statement


Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to make few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Regional disarmament and security are central to sustainable peace and stability. Each year SALW and their ammunition cause the death of and injure hundreds of thousands of people, including women and children. Their illicit trade and excessive accumulation adversely affect regional and international security and stability. In this regard, we would like to highlight the importance of conventional arms control regimes, as important instruments for ensuring stability, predictability and transparency in the military sphere.

Azerbaijan continues to support measures to ensure adequate marking of and record keeping for SALW and to strengthen cooperation in tracing illicit SALW. In this regard, Azerbaijan remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We also welcome UN Security Council Resolution 2117, the first resolution on SALW.

We recognize the substantial progress achieved at the Third Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), held in Maputo in June this year. Azerbaijan is not a party to the Ottawa Convention, and such situation is influenced by the continuing occupation of our territories and is caused by
the unfortunate need to use landmines as a measure of containment from possible resumption of hostilities.

At the regional level, Azerbaijan contributes to collective efforts through sharing information, submitting reports and receiving on-site inspections, evaluation and observation visits under the OSCE's Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence and Security Building Measures, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers etc.

Mr. Chairman,

The regional disarmament and security bears a special importance for conflict affected zones, which continue to serve as a concentration point of uncontrolled arms and to provide fertile ground for transnational organized crime and other illegal activities.

One such point is the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the territories around it that are still under the Armenian occupation. The territories have become a black hole in the zone of the CFE Treaty application. Moreover, the region has become a key transit spot for the illegal trade in arms, which has taken on threatening proportions for the security of my country.

Azerbaijan remains legitimately concerned about the growing security threats and proliferation risks. In light of emerging proliferation threats and due to my country's geographic location, we attach the utmost importance to the prevention of the use of our territory as a transit route for illicit nuclear trafficking. In close cooperation with our international partners and in line with international standards, we have developed a comprehensive national export control system with a solid legislative basis. To date, the system has proved to be a reliable mechanism in the prevention of illicit trafficking, including nuclear one.

The current situation when hundreds of pieces of TLE (treaty limited equipment) belonging to one State Party have been illegally deployed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, in gross violation of the CFE Treaty provisions is unacceptable from the legal point of view. The fact that the occupied territories of Azerbaijan provided Armenia—the occupying Power with the opportunity to use these areas as repair facilities and, moreover, to transfer and hide TLE from the international control regimes deserves serious attention and must be addressed in a comprehensive and impartial manner.
The off-budget expenses for the needs of the armed forces deployed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is a yet another evidence of militaristic and annexationist aspirations. Armenia intensively builds up its military presence and capability in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The available data indicates that since the occupation the numbers of unaccounted for and uncontrolled arms in these territories have consistently increased.

Taking this opportunity, we, once again, call upon Armenia to stop violating its arms control commitments and reconfirm by deeds its adherence to them. As a first step, it would be legitimate to expect that the Armenian delegation will come back with full reporting of this state’s armaments inventory and future procurements.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to declare that the strategy of Azerbaijan is aimed at the liberation of the all occupied territories and thus restoration of the State's territorial integrity, the return of forcibly displaced population to their homes, and the establishment of durable peace and stability in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, as well as in the entire South Caucasus.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.