Mr. Chair, Ambassador Karel J. G. van Oosterom,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the First Committee. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. As we look forward to your competent and prudent leadership, allow me to assure you that the Georgian Delegation will support and assist you in all your important endeavors.

Mr. Chair,

Throughout the recent years, there have been discussions questioning the adequacy of the existing security arrangements, especially the major cornerstones which create the foundation of the contemporary security architecture with the 21st century requirements.
We partially share this view. However, taking into account the universal nature of the fundamental principles upon which the security architecture rests, we are confident that the main problem is rather related to the unwillingness to strictly comply with the undertaken obligations than with the imperfections of the system itself.

Obviously, in certain cases the non-compliance can irreversibly erode the current security system and produce large-scale negative implications. This is exactly what we are witnessing today.

Security assurances provided to Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum in connection with the latter's accession to the NPT have been ignored and one of the guarantor states has itself openly challenged territorial integrity and sovereignty of this country. This is an extremely dangerous development that threatens to have far reaching negative implications, among others on the process of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

The Ukrainian case is not an isolated one in our region. The first alarm of such kind went on in August 2008 when the Russian Federation launched a full-scale military aggression against Georgia which resulted in the illegal military occupation of 20 percent of Georgian territory and the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Georgians. The ongoing occupation of our regions represents not only a fundamental threat to Georgia's security and stability. The lack of the respective international control mechanisms in those regions creates a fertile ground for all sorts of illegal activities including the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear proliferation. In this connection, I would like to remind the distinguished audience that there have been several recorded attempts of nuclear smuggling via the Russian-occupied Georgian regions and the international community has been duly informed about them.

Mr. Chairman

The threat of proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction, related materials and technologies has become one of the major challenges to our common security. It is well known that more than 16,000 nuclear warheads still exist and the risk of these weapons falling into the hands of unauthorized actors is indeed alarming.

In this regard, full compliance with the obligations under the relevant International arrangements, such as NPT, CWC, BWC, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and etc. must stand out as main priorities for the international community. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the key element for progress towards total nuclear disarmament. It is crucial that all states fulfill their commitments within the NPT and implement the 2010 Action Plan, which includes concrete steps on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

Here, I would like to use this opportunity and welcome the historic achievement reached as a result of negotiations in the EU3+3 and Iran format on a comprehensive settlement regarding the Iranian Nuclear program. This proves that even in the case of extremely complicated situations, hard work and political will can help to provide a constructive solution.
Georgia appreciates the United States' initiative to launch global dialogue on nuclear security within regular Nuclear Security Summits format. This forum has become a platform for addressing the most challenging issues on the highest level of international cooperation. We have significant work to do in order to allow outcomes of the Washington, Seoul and The Hague summits to materialize in concrete results.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, as a vital instrument to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, must enter into force without further delay. On its part, Georgia continues to actively cooperate with the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat to strengthen the monitoring and verification system.

The threats posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and materials continue to be at the top of the international security agenda.

Given the importance of this issue, the Governments of Georgia, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of the Philippines have initiated a creation of the UN Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance.

A formal announcement about the establishment of this Group was made during a high-level side event entitled "CBRN National Action Plans: Rising to the challenges of international security and the emergence of artificial intelligence," in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on October 7, 2015.

The Group of Friends will soon circulate to all Member States a concept paper outlining its objectives, activities and organization of work and intends to convene its very first meeting before the end of the year.

Together with our partners, Morocco and the Philippines, as well as the European Union - which provides funds for CBRN Centres of Excellence Risk Mitigation Initiative - and other relevant stakeholders, Georgia is determined to make meaningful contributions to the CBRN risk mitigation.

Mr. Chairman,

We regret that the international disarmament forum, namely the Conference on Disarmament, continues to fail in fulfilling its mandate. Undoubtedly, the Disarmament Conference should exercise a significantly greater influence and produce a larger impact in the field of its competence, especially in view of the current international security environment. To match this objective, we all have to spare no effort in order to promote revitalization of this unique forum for negotiations, which played a crucial role in elaborating most of the major international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.
Mr. Chairman,

Georgia fully shares the common approaches of the international community regarding the problem of illicit trade in conventional arms. Uncontrolled dissemination and excessive accumulation of conventional arms and ammunition represent a serious threat to international peace and security.

Unfortunately, large amounts of armaments are being accumulated in Georgia’s occupied regions in grave violation of the fundamental principles of international law as well as Russia’s international commitments including those under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

Instead of withdrawing from Georgia’s Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Regions as it was envisaged under this Agreement, Russia has reinforced its illegal military presence there, introducing additional personnel, armament and equipment, establishing new military infrastructure and constructing different kinds of fortifications along the occupation line.

I once again call on the Russian Federation to fulfill its obligations under international law, including those under the August 2008 ceasefire agreement and withdraw all its illegally deployed occupation forces from Georgia.

Mr. Chair,

Georgia is well aware of the grave consequences of uncontrolled spread and excessive accumulation of arms. Therefore, during the Arms Trade Treaty negotiation process, Georgia was an active supporter of the adoption of an effective legally-binding and robust mechanism.

We consider the adoption of this landmark document as a historic diplomatic achievement, a successful culmination of the determination and many years of efforts of the international community aimed at fostering global peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The degree of violence and brutality that ISIL brought to the Middle East is of the greatest concern for my country. Certain regions of Georgia are also targeted for recruiting new fighters for different organizations in Syria and Iraq. Addressing this challenge, especially taking into account its transnational and cross-border nature, requires well coordinated international approach.

In 2015 Georgia became member of Anti-ISIL Coalition and is actively engaged in several Working Groups established within the Coalition. Working Groups constitute unique platform that enables us to share and gain international best practices on counter ISIL issues.
On the national level, we are working on the internal policy aimed at countering the rising threat of extremism and terrorism – certain legislative amendments have already been initiated by the government in order to implement UNSC 1373, 1624 and 2178 resolutions. Adoption of these amendments aims at bringing the criminal code of Georgia in line with the best international practices. At the same time, to address the root causes of the spread of violent extremism, Georgia is developing inclusive policies for vulnerable groups for their social and economic development, fostering education and youth employment and political engagement, thus talking not only in the language of law and restrictions but also the one of opportunities and sustainable development for better future.

I thank you