Mr. Chairman,

I take the opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee and wish you all the success in leading the work of this Committee towards the desired outcome. I assure you of the full support of my delegation. I extend our congratulations to the members of the Bureau on their election as well. Let me express our appreciation to Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Courtenay Rattray, for his efforts as the Chair of First Committee during the previous session.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered (earlier) by the European Union on Conventional Weapons. However, given the importance of conventional weapons issues for my country in our regional context, I would like to add several relevant points in my national capacity.

First of all I would like to mention that the Republic of Moldova ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in May this year and deposited the ratification instrument on September 28th, 2015. My country shares the view that when effectively and widely implemented, the Arms Trade Treaty could make trade in conventional arms more responsible and transparent, reduce the human suffering and contribute noticeably to international peace, security and stability. Currently we look forward to its implementation by all UN member states, and thus its universalization.

In this context let me welcome the fruitful outcome of the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT held in Cancun, Mexico in August 2015. The substantive and operational decisions of the Conference are paving the path for an effective implementation of the ATT regime. I would like as well to extend our warm greetings to Switzerland on the selection of Geneva for the seat of the ATT Secretariat and to congratulate M. Dladla for his appointment as the interim Head of the Secretariat. My country wishes success to the next Conference of States Parties to be held in Geneva in 2016.

The ratification of the Treaty by the Republic of Moldova attests country's commitment to support international efforts in strengthening peace and security at global and regional level. The Republic of Moldova has begun to implement its provisions by further developing and
strengthening the national capacity building efforts in the field of arms control systems in line with the requirements of the Treaty. This refers first of all to the improvement of national legislation in the sphere of export and import control of strategic goods. At the same time, we hope that with the ongoing support of international community, we will ensure a more efficient system of arms trade procedures.

At this point, I unfortunately must reiterate, word by word, our clear previous understanding on an important element of the Treaty that we have underlined forcefully during its adoption – there is a strong and repeatedly expressed believe by the Republic of Moldova that this Treaty should not only ensure the transparency and accountability in transfers of conventional weapons per se, it should also help preventing illicit trafficking of such arms, particularly to separatist unrecognized entities. This is of vital importance to my country and in the current complex regional security context.

Let me touch, at this point, upon the Small Arms and Light Weapons issue. The Republic of Moldova recognizes the importance of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons as a key instrument to prevent the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) at the national, regional and global levels and remains committed to its implementation. I was honored to brief you earlier today on the work of the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held from 1-5 June 2015 in New York, which I had the privilege to chair. I hope that Chair’s summary from the second open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) will have a positive impact in preparations to Sixth Biennial Meeting of States in 2016 and hopefully will be useful for the both experts working on new materials and developments in making, marking, tracing and storing these weapons, as well as experts working on SALWs policy matters in the future. I briefed member states about the Chair’s summary earlier, in a concise, general and impartial manner, however, speaking in my national capacity I would like to use the opportunity to stress one point, though, of course, more points deserve to be mentioned. I believe, in our complex context, that we need to further consider an enhanced role for regional and sub-regional organizations in international cooperation and assistance and the exchange of information, as a tool to support our joint efforts as UN.

In this context I use the opportunity to express Republic of Moldova’s deep appreciation to OSCE, Swiss German and Austrian partners in updating our arms control legislation and implementation of concrete SALW storage projects, as well as to Belarus for the software on SALW and ammunition record keeping and storage that was accepted and a project was implemented with EU and UNDP backing.

Mr. Chair,

Since I have earlier called for a greater role for the regional and sub-regional organizations as a tool to support efforts on better, more effective, legal arms control in line with international law, relevant UN documents and resolutions, as well as keeping in mind the respect of the UN member states to each other, I will stress yet again the role of these organizations. I am sad to repeat my words from a year now calling us to focus today more than ever on a combination of
global and regional conventional arms control arrangements, as our particular situation in Europe shows. A genuine security, progress in arms controls and disarmament, could be achieved if a complex set of measures is taken at all levels – international, regional and national.

That is why we underline that we would like to see a combination of both legally binding, as well as political arms control commitments in Europe that would clearly include one principle, in line with the principle of state's sovereignty and based, in our case, on after over 20 years of diplomatic conflict settlement we have proven our commitment to peace - reinforcing a principle of host-nation consent to the stationing of foreign military forces. And as a matter of respecting the UN principles, our organization and its member states should support it.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova has shown its deep concern of the use and misuse of conventional weapons and thus consequently supported the efforts of international community in addressing the humanitarian, socio-economic and security impact of such weaponry.

In spirit of supporting the humanitarian goal of the Convention of Cluster munitions the Republic of Moldova, as a state party to the Convention from 2010, participated in the First Review Conference of the CCM in Dubrovnik, Croatia in September this year. The Republic of Moldova at this forum aligned her voice to the expressed by many participants concern about the use of cluster munitions against civilian populations in different conflicts. The extreme consequences of cluster munitions used in conflicts, especially recently reported facts leave no doubts on the stringent imperative for the total ban, destruction and elimination of cluster munitions, objectives that fall under the very scope of the Cluster Munitions Convention.

I am delighted to recall in this respect that the Republic of Moldova has actively participated in the Oslo Process from the very beginning and taken part in the codification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, my country being among the first 30 states to ratify the Convention and making possible its entry into force on August 1, 2010. Especially to be highlighted is that along this time, my country has undertaken concrete steps towards the implementation of the Convention, succeeding in destroying all the stockpiles of cluster munitions and of anti-personnel mines, deposited on the territory under the constitutional control of the Moldovan Government, prior to the entry into force of the Convention, thus becoming one of the first countries that has completely liquidated its stocks of this kind of munitions.

The substantial support provided by the non-governmental organization “Norwegian People’s Aid” and the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova in carrying out this noble mission is not only an excellent example of successful collaboration in the field between governmental and non-governmental organizations, but also a confirmation of the importance and impact of the international cooperation and assistance in eliminating cluster munitions.

My country will further contribute to the accomplishment of the objectives of the Convention and will support the efforts of the States Parties and international partners directed to strengthening the implementation of its provisions in all their aspects. Particularly, supporting
the humanitarian goal of the convention we plead for the sustainable assistance to the victims of cluster munitions.

The Republic of Moldova is welcoming the progress developed in the last years regarding the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the outcome of its Third Review Conference, the Maputo Action Plan that decided upon the next steps in this regard. We support the efforts to the Convention universalization.

The Republic of Moldova is also firmly committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols, which provide an effective multilateral platform for responding to present and future developments of weapons technology. The developments are encouraging and we do look forward to the further efforts on the compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

In conclusion, I am reaffirming the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to continue its engagement in all issues associated with the conventional weapons control.

Thank you.