Mr. Chairman,

Since my Delegation is taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Committee. Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Azerbaijan recognizes the vital role of the First Committee in maintaining international, sub-regional and regional peace and security. We attach serious attention to joint efforts in addressing regional and global issues, with particular focus on regional security, combating terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ensuring energy security. We strongly advocate the region of South Caucasus and beyond free from weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

Each year small arms and light weapons (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. Azerbaijan values the contribution made by the UN Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the Protocol on Firearms in addressing the challenges arising from misuse or unauthorized use of these weapons. Azerbaijan welcomes the achieving of consensus of the successful
outcome of the Second SALW Review Conference. International Assistance and Cooperation remains central to the effective implementation of international mechanisms on SALW.

Mr. Chairman,

As a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Azerbaijan regularly engages in information sharing, submits reports and receives 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 security of each State, and more broadly, the international and regional peace and security depends on whether States observe the norms and principles of international law and use them as a guiding tool for shaping their foreign and security policies. Unfortunately, unlawful use of force is still not removed from the context of international and regional relations. Today civilian populations are suffering in many places worldwide due to the manifest failure of individual States to fulfill their most basic and compelling responsibilities. Armed conflicts, military aggressions and foreign occupations involving the most serious international crimes, are only a few examples from our recent history of the bitter consequences of noncompliance by individual States with the norms and principles of international law.

The most vivid example of misconduct of the norms and principles of the international law almost two decades long and still unresolved Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict which represents one of the major threats to international and regional peace and security. The conflict has resulted in the occupation of almost one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan and has made approximately one out of every nine persons in my country an internally displaced or refugee. We will not surprise anybody by having repeated once again that the territories of Azerbaijan occupied as a result of armed aggression by neighboring Armenia have become a black hole in the zone of the CFE Treaty application. The international community has tolerated and lived with
the situation in which 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.

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.

We are seriously concerned inter alia by the fact that the conventional arms control mechanism is not effective in these territories. Accumulation of a great number of armaments and ammunition therein, beyond the international control, poses serious threats to regional peace and security. In this context, we regret that the international community shows certain indifference to this problem which in fact negatively affects the perspectives of the soonest peaceful resolution of the conflict. Our particular concern relates to the possibility of use by terrorist groups of specific weapons, including the individual anti-aircraft missile systems.

The strategy of Azerbaijan is aimed at the liberation of 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.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to declare that as long as Armenia continues to follow its aggressive policy, any talks about peace, stability and all-inclusive cooperation in the region are irrelevant. First of all, Armenia should ask herself about the reasons of such a situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.