GEORGIA

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Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Kaha Imnadze
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations
Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Sabri Boukadoum,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. We are looking forward to your competent and prudent leadership, and allow me to assure you that the Georgian delegation will support and assist you in your endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

Needless to say, that the security threats and challenges our community faces today are asymmetric, complex, dynamic and transnational in nature. I might have to repeat myself, say what I have spoken earlier, but such is the unfortunate nature of unresolved issues. And such is the nature of our work in this Committee to try build consensus and political support among us, the member states, over those threats and identify the measures to counter them.

Latest worrisome pattern to forcibly alter international borders poses a serious threat to peace and stability and undermines the fundamental principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity. European security is being challenged by Russia's ongoing military aggression against Ukraine. As you all are well aware, this is not an isolated one in our region. 20 percent of Georgia also remains under illegal military occupation, after the 2008 invasion. The Military build-up on the occupied territories has intensified exponentially in flagrant violation of international law and the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement, posing a serious threat to my nation's security and the well-being of its citizens.

Furthermore, as long as international mechanisms are totally absent in the occupied territories, there are no guarantees that the military arsenal, including the most dangerous weapons systems, would not be transferred to terrorist or criminal groups. In fact, during 2006-2016, 25 cases of illicit smuggling of radioactive materials have been apprehended, 11 of which were from the occupied territories of Georgia.

We are likewise deeply distressed by the violent developments and security situation in Iraq and Syria. After the recent airstrikes on the humanitarian aid convoy in eastern Aleppo, all humanitarian convoys across combat lines in Syria were suspended. It completely undermined everything that was achieved through arduous work and pain. It is paramount to re-establish conditions that would allow restoration of humanitarian aid to bring relief to the Syrian people.

We condemn in the strongest terms all despicable acts of terrorism and violence against civilian population. It is only with our joint efforts and commitment that we can stop, reverse and prevent such violent actions from happening. As we have already seen the terrorist groups such as ISIL threaten not only the nations in the Middle East but also in Europe, North America and in all other places across the globe.
Mr. Chairman,

The risk of nuclear terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the related materials and technologies has become one of the major challenges to our common security. 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 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, Georgia actively cooperates with the European Union and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) within the framework of the CBRN Centres of Excellence, to promote an integrated CBRN approach across the area of South East Europe, the Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine. With the aim to contribute to the success of this project the CBRN Regional Secretariat was opened and is successfully functioning in Georgia.

Furthermore, with the aim to address and promote various CBRN related topics at the United Nations, the Governments of Georgia, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of the Philippines have established the UN Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance. The UN Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance is a consultation and dialogue forum aimed at integrating the CBRN component in the international security architecture, sensitizing states on the importance of mitigating CBRN risks, and foster regional cooperation on CBRN challenges. It will also promote the activities aimed at building capacity and develop capabilities between and among partner States, promote the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and subsequent relevant resolutions.

Last week a high level side event on CBRN Risk Mitigation in the context of Combatting Terrorism took place in the UNHQ, which was organized by the UN Group of Friends and UNICRI. The side-event aimed at enhancing awareness of the current and possible future CBRN related threats, including terrorism. Possibilities of using new technological developments such as artificial intelligence by terrorists to deliver CBRN materials and Cyber Security were taken into account.

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.

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, aimed at regulating international trade in conventional arms, is a historic diplomatic achievement and successful culmination of the determination and many years of efforts of the international community aimed at fostering global peace and security. As a proud sponsor of the process that started in 2006, and as a
signatory of the ATT Georgia is convinced that this binding legal instrument has the real potential to eradicate illicit arms trade, to genuinely contribute to the humanitarian objectives and, overall, to foster global peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that it is time for the international community to stand up for the timeless principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Hence, the First Committee apart from being seized with elaborating initiatives and ideas to address the existing problems in the fields of nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and nonproliferation should do its utmost to remedy the "conventional threats" to international, regional and national security that could potentially undermine the existing international system of nation-states.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.