Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, in the spirit of a long lasting and good tradition in this Committee, I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the chairmanship of the current session of the First Committee and to wish you success and inspiration in steering its work. My country aligned itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union and I take the opportunity to add some additional elements in my national capacity.

Today, widespread armed violence continues to cause killings of civilians, including women and children, on a daily basis, to the point that we get used to discuss that. New and still unresolved conflicts, including on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, create opportunities for illegal arms trade, trafficking in weapons and dangerous materials.

That is why we, in this Committee, bear a great responsibility to make sure that we not only discuss that, we make sure the arms control and disarmament actually work.

Mr. Chairman,

The universalization of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and nuclear disarmament remains to be an important step in our endeavor to reinforce international peace and security and ensure stability among major political forces on the international arena. Last year’s NPT Review Conference reiterated once again that this fundamental treaty is not only about deterrence from using nuclear armament and avoiding a global catastrophe, but is also about making the world a safer place. Like many in this room, the Republic of Moldova recognizes the importance of the creation of the Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone – an issue that proved critical for the advancement and implementation of the NPT and is vital for the stabilization of the security not only in the Middle East, but beyond it too. We also consider that measures to implement effective border control mechanisms, particularly in areas affected by conflicts, need to remain very much in focus of our Committee.

We will also have this year in our focus the discussions on the legally binding instruments on prohibition of nuclear weapons. Similarly, as we mark this year the 20th anniversary of the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT), we emphasize the imperative for its universalization. The Republic of Moldova associated itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT at the high level meeting held in September this year in New York, in the context of the general debate of the UN General Assembly. My country’s position is that the NPT and the CTBT go hand in hand as these are the core treaties of nuclear
Mr. Chairman,

There are about two years since the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, a landmark agreement providing an international legal framework for the regulation of trade in conventional arms and setting the standards for more responsibility and transparency in this area. The Republic of Moldova deposited ATT ratification instruments in September last year and a delegation of my country participated in the Second Conference of States Parties to the ATT held in Geneva in August this year. And as we did at the Geneva conference, here again we reiterate the importance of this treaty’s ratification by more states in addition to more than 80 countries bound by the ATT to this day. Clearly, without all countries joining this international legal framework for arms control the endeavor of the ATT is undermined, and my delegation believes that this was not a prospect that the countries envisaged when the treaty was negotiated.

We are all witnessing how much damage the conventional arms can cause to the population in various conflicts, and the least we want is that small conventional arms get into the hands of unauthorized actors thus making it even more difficult for the international community to contain wars.

This is of particular concern for my country which is confronted by an separatist unresolved conflict in the Transnistrian region, a zone out of the control of the constitutional state authorities for over two decades, where foreign troops are illegally stationed and even regularly carry out military exercises. The issue of ammunitions depots which had to be withdrawn long ago from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with international commitments is also part of our serious concern.

...and where the illicit production and trafficking in conventional arms was registered, while military depots with tons of equipment and ammunitions add to the concern. Throughout the entire process of ATT negotiations, during the states parties’ conferences as well as in this very Committee my country never ceased to warn the international community about the danger of “black zones” for arms control regimes that can be used both as sources and transit points for international trafficking in conventional arms. This concern grew with the appearance of more conflict zones in our region. Therefore, in order to prevent this phenomenon, we need the commitment of all states to join and implement the ATT and in this way to restrain the potential of those “black zones” such as the one I mentioned.

The Republic of Moldova has developed a national robust arms control system aiming at preventing and curbing any activity involving arms misuse and exports by and to unauthorized actors. An electronic register of small arms and light weapons was put in place, with the support of our international partners, in order to ensure a better management and more efficient control of those arms. This represents one of the measures to strengthen the capacities of national authorities to control SALW within an integrated modern electronic system that allows to make a swift data exchange nationally and internationally, and represents
a secure channel of information about the circuit of arms. As a state party to the ATT, more actions are envisaged to ensure compliance with the treaty, especially pertaining to brokering, control lists and other procedures.

Mr. Chairman,

I would also like to emphasize the role of regional organizations and arrangements for the international regulation of arms trade and production. These should be supported by in UN and used as platforms to address the issue of arms control in a more targeted way in addition and as complementary to the global framework under the UN umbrella and to strengthen the regional responsibility and the reinforcement of strict terms in this area.

Finally, my country reaffirms its commitment to stay engaged in the advancement of the international disarmament efforts and to bring its practical contribution to this end.

I thank you.