Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

Let me congratulate on Georgia’s behalf Ambassador Llorenty Soliz on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee and assure him of the full support of the Georgian delegation.

Excellences,

Existing disarmament, non-proliferation and security architecture served global security well, but nowadays we face the reality where security threats and challenges have become more and more complex, asymmetric and transnational in nature. As we continue to face major proliferation threats to international peace and security, we are convinced that multilateralism and rules based order remains as the only solution to resolve problems and advance our work on disarmament, non-proliferation, and other contemporary security challenges.
Proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international peace and stability both at the national and international levels; In this regard, unconditional compliance with the obligations under the relevant International arrangements, such as Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and United Nations Security Council Resolutions must stand out as main priorities for the international community.

Georgia is focused on a successful outcome of the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT. On its 50th anniversary, we have to reinforce the NPT as a key multilateral instrument for international peace, security and stability, promote its universalization and enhance its implementation.

Georgia harmonized its National Legislation with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and remains committed to its full, universal, effective and non-discriminatory implementation that will further contribute to the prevention of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Georgia condemns in the strongest terms the heinous acts, and fully supports the efforts of the OPCW with regard to the investigation of the use of chemical weapons;

Georgia is fully committed to the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; Hence to demonstrate our transparency and openness on 14-15 November, 2018 Georgia conducted a Peer Review exercise in the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health and invited all States Parties to the Convention for a peer review compliance exercise; Report of the exercise states that the facility demonstrated significant transparency about its research and diagnostic activities and the visiting team observed nothing that was out of accordance with prophylactic, protective and other peaceful purposes.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is one of the key pillars of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture contributing to global peace and security. Georgia reiterates its full confidence in the CTBT’s verification regime – something that no single country alone would be able to do. Taking into account the mentioned, early entry into force and universalization of the CTBT should be one of the top priorities for all.

Mr. Chairman,

On the national level Georgia continues its work in the field of Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security. Last year Georgia joined a Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. On May 29, 2019 Georgia adopted the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
With the strong support of the Government of Georgia the Regulatory system is being improved and national regulatory infrastructure and radioactive waste management system is strengthened annually; Independent regulatory body effectively conducts its responsibilities. These efforts and initiatives were welcomed by the IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission, hosted by Georgia in February of last year. The Mission further provided useful recommendations and suggestions to improve the effectiveness of national regulatory system.

We also appreciate contribution of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the support of which made it possible to not only implement recommendations, but, also, carry out profound reforms.

Let me also note, that Georgia appreciates valuable support and active cooperation of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM). With the substantial support of the European Union and Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, the plan on establishing new upgraded radioactive waste storage and processing facilities became possible.

Excellences,

The proliferation of nuclear and radioactive materials remains a subject of serious concern for Georgia. In recent years, we had several recorded incidents of smuggling nuclear and radioactive materials through occupied territories of Georgia. Fortunately, these illegal activities were prevented by Georgian law enforcement agencies; However, in the absence of the international presence on Georgia’s occupied territories, it has become virtually impossible to conduct any type of verification activities on the ground.

Mister Chairman,

The conventional military conflicts continue to be unresolved and are on the rise. The Black Sea region is particularly exposed to the threatening wave of militarization in flagrant violation of international law. Military aggression by the Russian Federation against Georgia and Ukraine represents fundamental threat not only to our countries, but endangers the wider European security.

Russian Federation continues its military buildup in Georgia’s occupied territories and further isolates these regions from the rest of the country, in total disregard of its commitments under 2008 Ceasefire Agreement [to withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Georgia]. Russia’s illegal military bases in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions are equipped with contemporary and sophisticated offensive weaponry, including tanks, various armored vehicles, launch rocket systems as well as SA and SS missile systems SA10 Grumble and SS21 Scarab. The force structure and posture of these deployments, including the type and quantity of their military
hardware, go beyond any defensive objectives and serve nothing but power projection across the entire Black Sea region and the Mediterranean.

Russia has deployed complexes of S-300 air-defense missile systems in Abkhazia region and powerful Anti-access/Area denial (A2/AD) capabilities, which cover virtually whole Caucasus and large part of the Black Sea. In parallel, the Russian Federation conducts regular military drills in occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions as part of the exercises of its Southern Military District.

Mr. Chairman,

Multilateralism and the rules-based international system are vital prerequisites for the stable and secure international environment. Our joint efforts and political will to comply with international law and adhere to nonproliferation, disarmament arms control regimes and related commitments will define how we cope with our security challenges today and in the future.

I thank you.