Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray,

In my Statement today, I would like to highlight Georgia’s position on some of the aspects of international disarmament mechanisms within the scope of the conventional weapons cluster and to draw the distinguished delegates’ attention to the most recent developments in my region.

Georgia as a signatory of the Arms Trade Treaty welcomes the entrance into force of this important international legal instrument on the 24th of December 2014. We express our readiness to facilitate its full implementation in close cooperation with other partner nations. Georgia commends Mexico’s decision to hold in its capital the First Conference of the States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty in the second half of 2015. The Parliament of Georgia plans to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty in the near future. We will actively participate in the First CSP as well as in the informal preparatory consultations scheduled to be held in Berlin on November 27-28. We deem it essential to work closely with other member states on elaborating a structural framework that would make the ATT an effective international instrument and its Permanent Secretariat a plenipotentiary body to comprehensively oversee the implementation process. Not doing so would negate all the assiduous work that we have collectively undertaken for so many years.

Mr. Chairman,

There are quite a few alarming developments throughout the world that threaten the already existing security mechanisms. Unfortunately, on the European Continent we see a deepening
erosion of the existing security architecture which has been traditionally based on three main pillars, Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Vienna Document. These documents were designed to facilitate and strengthen security and stability in our region. The complementary nature of these documents led us to think that damaging of one of them would negatively affect the proper functioning of the others as well as the whole security system.

Today we find that the conventional arms control, that was meant to be the cornerstone of the European security architecture, cannot fully function and the process of its revitalization is practically in impasse due to the unilateral actions undertaken by the Russian Federation abdicating its obligations under the important multilateral and bilateral agreements. Russia's aggressive actions against Georgia and Ukraine are more specific examples in which illegal actions are put to the service of irredentist geopolitical aspirations. I talked on these issues in detail during my Statement at the First Committee General Debate on the 9th of October and I do not want to repeat them here.

Mr. Chairman,

What I want instead is to draw the distinguished delegates' attention to the most recent utterly disturbing development. On the 13th of October 2014, a draft "Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on Alliance and Integration" elaborated by the Russian government was published in the media.

This so-called "draft treaty" constitutes a newest proof that the Russian government continues to grossly violate the fundamental principles of international law and to completely ignore the commitments it has undertaken.

Despite the complexity of the many problems relating to the de-occupation of Georgia and restoration of our territorial integrity, two years ago the Government of Georgia offered Russia a new format for bilateral dialogue aimed at building mutual confidence. The realization of this policy led to some positive results in the trade, economic and humanitarian fields.

It must be emphasized that the signing and implementation of the so-called treaty will pose a serious threat to the process of de-escalation of the Georgia-Russia relations, and will seriously undermine the Geneva International Discussions, which are of particular importance to Georgia.

It is totally unacceptable that the preamble of the so-called draft treaty claims to speak on behalf of the "two countries' peoples," as it is a well recognized fact that the majority native population of the Russian-occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia was forcibly expelled from their homes, including as a result of ethnic cleansing.

We call on the Russian government to refrain from signing this so-called treaty. Otherwise, this will only be assessed as a step towards the annexation of the occupied Georgian region of Abkhazia, which would incur serious international consequences.

We call upon the international community and first and foremost the United Nations, to show solidarity with Georgia and condemn Russia's intentions, the fulfillment of which would qualitatively change the situation in the region and would create additional problems for the international security.