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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Alexandru Cujba, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations at the General Debate of the First Committee
65th Session of the General Assembly, New York, 12 October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee, as well as the members of the Bureau on their election.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union at the beginning of our debate and I will add the following considerations in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The majority of delegations addressing this Committee took note of the increased multilateral efforts in promoting disarmament and preventing proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, highlighting the new US-Russia START-agreement, the outcome of the Nuclear Summit in Washington, the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - all encouraging examples of the increased cooperation of our member states.

We welcome the Secretary General's initiatives in the field of disarmament, including the recently convened High-Level Meeting on *Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations* and support his call on invigorating multilateral discussions in this Committee that would lead to action-oriented follow-up steps in specialized disarmament bodies and, in particular, will bring valuable contribution to the revival and strengthening of the Conference on Disarmament as the most appropriate body for conducting multilateral negotiations on disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the most important multilateral instrument for the promotion of nuclear disarmament and prevention of nuclear proliferation, while sustaining peaceful use of atomic energy. Perceived by many countries as a core instrument for achieving total and complete disarmament, it requires a comprehensive implementation.

We welcome the results of the 2010 Review Conference and believe that the successful realization of the adopted Action Plan is achievable only through concerted efforts of all member states towards the implementation of the Treaty and its objectives. We attach great importance to the strict compliance with the NPT and plead for the accomplishment of its universality.

Confident that zones free of nuclear weapons essentially facilitate maintenance of peace and security both at the global and regional level, we express satisfaction with the progress achieved in this regard at the NPT Review Conference, particularly by endorsing the convening in 2012 of the Conference to address the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an indispensable part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its early entry into force shall constitute a top priority for all States Parties. We welcome the commitments of the United States and Indonesia towards its ratification that further enhance the prospects for ratifications of CTBT by the remaining Annex II states.

In the same line, we regard the early commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty as a critical step towards the fulfillment of the obligations and final objectives enshrined in Article VI of the NPT.

The Republic of Moldova recognizes the central role that the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has played in providing assurances for the peaceful nature of nuclear programs of the States Parties. Our participation in the NPT and CTBT, as well as conclusion of the comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA signifies the constant commitment of my country to strengthening the international non-proliferation treaty framework.

Our cooperation with the IAEA during the last fifteen years was focused on peaceful use of nuclear science and technology for critical needs, such as improvement of the radiation security infrastructure, security of radiological sources and efficient response in case of emergency situations, transfer and implementation of nuclear technologies in medicine and environmental science.

Last February my country deposited the ratification instrument of the *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*. We support the IAEA *Additional Safeguards Protocol in connection with the NPT*, as well as the UN and the IAEA actions in the area of nuclear security and verification, including the safeguards system, export control regimes and protection of nuclear materials.

Mr. Chairman,

The significance of cooperation for the enhancement of the international security, disarmament and non-proliferation and counteracting international terrorism was stressed by many delegations.

In our view, Security Council Resolution 1540 plays a critical role in the common efforts for the prevention of acquisition by non-state actors of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and therefore we back the calls for its all-inclusive implementation.

Being part to the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*, we pledge for actions towards ensuring compliance and promotion of non-proliferation obligations in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including by building adequate capacity for prevention and response to challenges posed by states or entities that are non-compliant with the non-proliferation regimes. At the national level, we undertake all necessary measures to prevent possible transfers through our territory of any components, materials and technology related to weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

To achieve genuine security at the international, regional and national levels, progress in disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be complemented by control and reductions of conventional arms.

In parallel with the processes of arms regulations, reduction and disarmament in weapons of mass destruction, the international community should address issues related to production, use, trade

and stockpiles of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, which fuel conflicts in different parts of the world and threaten international peace and security.

For almost two decades, since the Republic of Moldova became an independent state, the constitutional authorities of my country have been striving to reduce and eliminate the huge amounts of weapons and ammunitions accumulated on our territory. In our endeavor, we have been assisted and receive ongoing support from many bilateral and multilateral partners. Regretfully, due to the secessionist regime in its Eastern part, the Republic of Moldova cannot ensure the efficient control of those obsolete stockpiles and, consequently, of the flow of dual use goods and materials that enter or transit the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

For that reason, while highly appreciating the efforts undertaken by the EU Border Assistance Mission in cooperation with Ukrainian authorities to jointly monitor the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan border, we reiterate our call for an international fact-finding mission in Transnistria in order to have a clear picture of the stockpiled weapons and ammunitions and to resume their withdrawal and destruction, thus ensuring security in the region.

On its own part, the Republic of Moldova supports the initiatives and actions on preventing trafficking in conventional arms and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and pleads for continuation of negotiations of an Arms Trade Treaty, a legally binding international instrument establishing the highest common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional weapons, and the full implementation of and universalisation of the Convention on the prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction.

Similarly, we welcome the recent entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to which the Republic of Moldova brought its contribution. We are pleased to notice that before its entering into force a project on destruction of all such munitions in the country was launched, in cooperation with the NGO “Norwegian People’s Aid” and we are determined to report on its successful implementation at the First Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention to be held in Vientiane (Lao PDR) in November 2010.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.