

Cluster 6 - Regional Disarmament and security

Mr. Chairman,
Dear colleagues,

Just last week, on 24 October, we celebrated the United Nations Day, marking the 80th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter and creation of the global organisation with unmatched legitimacy, power and impact. However, 80 years later threats to the international peace and security persist, endangering the rules based international order. No region of the world has been spared, as armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, and military confrontations continue—while, in the heart of Europe, an unprecedented war of aggression against Ukraine has been waged for over three and a half years.

The humanitarian impact of Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine remains deeply concerning. Thousands of lives have been lost, and millions displaced, while critical civilian infrastructure has suffered extensive damage. The ongoing hostilities have also raised serious risks for the safety of nuclear power facilities, with potentially grave implications for the region and beyond. We continue to follow with concern the situation around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). We commend Ukraine, for its close coordination with the IAEA and international partners to minimize risks and reiterate our call on Russia to immediately cease military actions around nuclear sites and withdraw troops as any irresponsible steps could have far-reaching consequences for the entire European continent.

Dear Colleagues,

Sadly, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its pattern of actions are not new for my country. Georgia has faced Russia's aggressive policy—combining conventional and hybrid warfare—since the early 1990s, followed by the full-scale military aggression in August 2008. What began as an unprovoked assault on Georgia's sovereignty has evolved into a sustained campaign to challenge the international legal order and redraw borders by force, setting a dangerous precedent that continues to reverberate across Ukraine and posing a significant threat to the international security architecture.

Despite the EU-mediated Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, Russia continues to occupy Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, violating international obligations and entrenching its presence through hybrid tactics, military build-up, and demographic

manipulation. Russia still refuses to withdraw its forces, establish international security mechanisms, or allow the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees. In 2025, the security situation remains fragile, with Russia maintaining illegal military presence in the occupied regions and intensifying maritime militarisation, including the development of a naval base in Ochamchire—posing serious risks to Georgia's sovereignty and regional stability.

Mr. Chair,

European security is closely interlinked to the security of the Black Sea region. As a strategically located country in the Black Sea region, Georgia upholds high standards of CBRN security at national, regional, and international levels, contributing to the global security. Preventing and responding to nuclear and radioactive threats are central to our state security, and effective measures by Georgian law enforcement have successfully prevented illegal activities.

Between 2021 and 2025, the State Security Service of Georgia identified and prevented five cases of illegal trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. Several individuals were brought to criminal responsibility. However, the existence of the so-called "GREY ZONES," in Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, illegally occupied by Russia, where internationally agreed security measures cannot be implemented, poses the significant challenges in the context of non-proliferation and disarmament. Georgia has previously detected smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials through these territories but the absence of an international presence there makes it impossible to conduct any verification activities on the ground. Therefore, the threat of proliferation in and from the occupied territories of the Black Sea region remains a pressing concern for both regional and international security.

Dear colleagues,

Today, multidimensional peace and security challenges are not confined within the boundaries of any given country or region, and bear wider implications for global security. Therefore, vocal unity and decisive steps are essential to effectively address them. Coordinated and holistic measures are necessary to make every country fulfil its international obligations and obey to the fundamental principles of international law, including those related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you.