



Statement by
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[8 minutes]

Mister Chair,

Let me start by joining other colleagues, in congratulating you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and other members of the Bureau, with the warmest wishes for a successful session.

Albania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU days earlier. I would like to add the following on our national capacity.

Listening to the statements made by the distinguished representatives, seems that we all agree at one point: that international system is under serious threat, the core principles of the UN Charter are being challenged and we are in front of a completely new reality from what we left in December last year.

Allow me to quote Russian colleague, when he said that [quote] “we are working under emergency circumstances of the gravest crisis of international security” [end of quote]. I would like to remind for the transparency of facts, that it was Russia itself, that started this unprovoked war, violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, going against the peaceful aspirations of a free, democratic country to develop and prosper.

Let me reiterate our firm position. Albania is against this unprovoked, unjustified war of choice by Russia and we strongly condemn its military aggression in Ukraine.

We completely despise the sham referenda conducted in part of Ukraine's territory and will never recognize the illegal annexation proclaimed by Russia, considering it another illegal act of aggression, carried out in defiance of international laws and the UN Charter.

It is so sad to hear Russian delegation justifying their unprovoked war, the killings of thousands of civilians, innocent women and children, by insulting the vivid memory of those who really suffered by the brutality of the Nazi regime. Nothing can justify this war.

Russia's irresponsible behavior, with unacceptable nuclear rhetoric, by repeatedly threatening the use of nuclear weapons, has put joint arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament efforts to imminent risk, blatantly violating its commitment under the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances.

As a result of Russia's military aggression and indiscriminate attacks on several nuclear sites, we remain deeply concerned over the growing nuclear safety and security risks in Ukraine. The Zaporizhzhia NPP, occupied by the Russian forces, is dangerously at serious risk. We fully support the recommendation of the IAEA to establish a secure perimeter around the nuclear power plant and call for its immediate implementation.

Another sad moment for the non-proliferation agenda, is the failure of the 10th Review Conference of the NPT to adopt the long-awaited consensual outcome, because Russia decided to block it, despite the efforts of all delegations and President Zlaugvinen to reach consensus.

Albania will continue to promote universal adherence and full implementation of the NPT, as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. IAEA plays a crucial role in monitoring the discouragement of nuclear weapons and for the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

Mr. Chair,

We are deeply concerned over the DPRK's continuous violations of relevant Security Council resolutions through sustained development of its nuclear and missile programs including, ballistic missile launches at an unprecedented frequency, around 40 launches only this year. We strongly condemn the dangerous launch of a long-range ballistic missile over Japan on 4th of October. The UNSC unanimously held DPRK accountable for this unlawfulness, calling for it to abandon all nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and related programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to return to negotiations and diplomacy.

We call on Iran to engage in good faith and seek realistic and lasting solutions, convinced that JCPOA remains the only tool for the international community to be reassured in a verifiable way that Iran's nuclear programme is and remains solely dedicated to peaceful purposes. Iran must fully cooperate with IAEA and provide comprehensive and accurate records on the safeguards outstanding issues. Albania strongly supports the tireless efforts of the European Union in achieving a resumption of the JCPOA and in urging Iranian authorities to seize the given diplomatic momentum in full transparency.

Mr. Chair,

As High Representative Nakamitsu rightfully described, "the prospect of active hostilities in domains such as cyberspace is becoming increasingly likely".

I would like to draw your attention to the latest massive cyber-attacks that occurred against my country, in an unsuccessful attempt by one state to inflict damage to the critical infrastructure, erase digital systems, steal data, trying to paralyze on-line public services, to destabilize, create chaos and insecurity in the country.

An in-depth investigation provided us with indisputable evidence that this cyberattack was orchestrated and sponsored by the Islamic State of Iran through the engagement of several non-state actors that enacted this

assault. We consider this a blatant breach of norms of a responsible state behavior in cyberspace peacetime, a clear act of aggression against a sovereign country.

In this sense, Albania believes in the imperative to defining rules that ensure security and stability in cyberspace within the framework of the United Nations, grounded in the UN Charter and existing international laws. We support the proposal for a resolution on a PoA to Advance Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace and encourage all members to endorse this action-oriented initiative.

Mr. Chair,

In concluding, allow me to reiterate Albania's full support to disarmament agenda, arms control, non-proliferation, confidence-building measures, committed to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. We echo the calling for the universalization of the CTBT, as well as for the need for an immediate start of negotiations and conclusion of FMCT.

Albania strongly supports a sustained implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540, considering that threats posed to international security by terrorists or other non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction remain very eminent. The CWC continues to be a remarkable success of effective multilateralism. We strongly support the universalization of the ATT and will continue to counter the threats posed by the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

We will continue to encourage the active engagement and cooperation with UNODA, UNOCT, international organizations, such as IAEA, OPCW and other stakeholders. A meaningful and effective inclusion of women in all aspects of international peace and security, with equal rights as men remains at the focus of our work including in this committee, in line with Women Peace and Security agenda.

Thank you.

