



STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. Gheorghe Leucă, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Moldova at the General Debate of the First Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly**

11 October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chairmanship in the First Committee and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in fulfilling your important mandate.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I would like to highlight a few points in my national capacity.

Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

The world is facing ever growing geopolitical tensions and multifaced challenges that threaten international peace and security.

Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine has put to test the fundamental principles of the UN, has shattered global security, triggered a European energy crisis, global food shortages, and an economic downturn. This war is an attack on the rules-based international order and an attack on nuclear safety.

We have all been appalled by the massive Russian missile attacks conducted recently against Ukrainian cities, especially civilian and critical infrastructure. These attacks are causing human losses and suffering and significant destruction.

According to the verified airspace monitoring data, three of the cruise missiles launched from the Russian military ships located in the Black Sea on targets in Ukraine have crossed Moldovan airspace. The Republic of Moldova firmly condemns the violation of its sovereign airspace. This incident created serious risks to the security of my country.

We strongly condemn the so-called referendums illegally organized by the Russian Federation in the Ukrainian occupied regions of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk. Conducting these pseudo-referendums during the ongoing war and using them as a pretext to annex a part of Ukrainian sovereign territory occupied by force is severe violation of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and other fundamentals of the international law.

The Republic of Moldova does not and will not recognize the results of these illegal actions and reiterates its strong support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We express great concern about the military activities in and around Ukraine's nuclear sites and the dangerous rhetoric about the possible use of nuclear weapons. All these warring developments pose a great risk not only for the region, but also for the entire world. In this sense, we cannot emphasize

enough the importance of stopping the shelling in and around these sites with a view to avoiding catastrophic consequences.

Against this backdrop, we reiterate the importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of nonproliferation and disarmament. While deploring the failure of the 10th Review Conference to reach a consensual outcome last August, we highlight the critical need of walking back from the nuclear rhetoric and pursuing the disarmament-related goals set in 2010 including, *inter alia*, the pledge to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament on all types of nuclear weapons.

Full compliance with NPT's provisions and its universalization are critical to pursue nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in good faith and in a rules-based international system.

While keeping the momentum on the nuclear disarmament agenda, we also highlight the relevance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which has been instrumental in creating the global normative framework to contain and reduce nuclear threats. In this regard, we echo the Joint statement issued by the "Friends of CTBT" at the Tenth Ministerial Meeting held in New York, on 21st September, calling for the universal ratification and the entry into force of the concerned Treaty without further delay.

We note with deep concern the failure by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the provision of the CTBT and urge the DPRK to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to take concrete actions towards achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of its nuclear weapons related programme.

Mr. Chairman,

Proliferation, excessive accumulation, and misuse of conventional arms has a wide range of negative humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences.

The Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to the effective implementation of the conventional arms control instruments. Their rules and obligations must be respected, and guidelines followed.

From this perspective, we reaffirm our strong support for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as the first legally binding instrument establishing common standards for the international transfer of conventional weapons.

It is imperative to reduce the unregulated availability of conventional arms and SALW in areas of conflict or potential conflict by ensuring strict transfer controls and safe destruction of surplus weapons as well as helping affected governments to deal with all aspects of these problems.

The Republic of Moldova has been constantly requesting for a complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces based in the Transnistrian region of our country. And our position remains unchanged. Furthermore, we reiterate our call for the complete removal and destruction of the ammunition from the Cobasna stockpile, which now more than ever poses a silent threat to the security and stability of the entire region.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reaffirming once again the role of this Committee in multilateral discussions on disarmament and, in view of multiple challenges to international peace and security. The Republic of Moldova is fully committed to the disarmament agenda with UN playing a central role in ensuring the universalization and implementation of existing treaties.

Thank you.