Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The mere existence of nuclear weapons is a source of horror, distrust and threat. Nuclear disarmament is the highest priority on the disarmament agenda. It forms a fundamental part of the package agreed within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968. Despite the obligations under article VI of the Treaty and undertakings by the nuclear-weapon States in 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences to eliminate totally their nuclear arsenals, the continued existence, development and deployment of thousands of nuclear warheads in their arsenals threaten international peace and security.

Lack of implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament" under article VI of the NPT, is frustrating. This is a matter of grave concern. Despite the limited bilateral and unilateral arms reduction in the past, such efforts are far below the international expectations for real and effective steps and can never be a substitute for the obligations of nuclear weapon States. These reductions have not gone beyond the mere decommissioning of nuclear weapons and putting them in store rooms. To be effective, reductions in nuclear weapons must be irreversible, internationally verifiable and transparent. As a result of the blatant violations of legally binding commitments under Article VI of the NPT, the integrity of the NPT has been endangered, and the confidence of non-nuclear weapon States in the credibility of the Treaty has been eroded. The world "will not wait indefinitely" for nuclear weapon States to live up to their international obligations regarding their nuclear weapon programs.

The, yet to be changed, United States Nuclear Posture Review and the so-called UK Trident project, which have provided for the development of new types of nuclear weapons and modern delivery
means, the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and targeting nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT, are in contravention of the NPT and the assurances given by the nuclear weapon States at the time of its indefinite extension. More worrisome is the announcement by France regarding the addition of a nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine while keeping the 300 nuclear warheads in its arsenal. These weapons which are considered by its possessor as minimum deterrence can destroy at least 300 cities and kill 300 millions peoples.

Iran considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We continue to believe in the need for negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time limit, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. In this regard, we reiterate our call for the establishment, as the highest priority and as soon as possible, of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, with the mandate of real negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament. Such negotiations must lead to legally prohibit, once and for all, the possession, development, stockpiling of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of such inhuman weapons. Pending the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention, the nuclear weapon States must honor their obligations under the NPT and immediately stop:

- Any kind of development and research on nuclear weapons,
- Any threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States,
- Any modernization of nuclear weapons and their facilities,
- Deployment of nuclear weapons in the territories of other countries,
- Maintaining their nuclear weapons in the trigger-alert situation.

Mr. Chairman,

For a long time, some EU members have been in non-compliance with their obligations undertaken under the NPT which provides in its Article II that "Each non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly". These countries have violated the NPT by receiving hundreds of nuclear weapons from the United States under the umbrella of the NATO.

Deploying hundreds of nuclear weapons in non-nuclear-weapon States and training the fighter-bomber pilots of the hosting EU countries to prepare for handling and delivering the nuclear bombs against other States contravene both the letter and spirit of the NPT and the hosting States are in clear non-compliance with the NPT. This concern has prompted many, even in European countries, including parliaments, to
request the withdrawal of nuclear forces from their territories. These EU members should come into compliance with the NPT by immediately removing nuclear warheads from their territories. In this context, the EU instead of threatening the others should urge its relevant members to comply with the NPT.

Furthermore, two EU Member States have carried out nuclear explosions during 3 decades, with serious radioactivity consequences for the environment and for people of other countries that were ex-colonies. The problem of radioactivity contamination is lasting and has no borders or nationality, and the EU has a responsibility to call on those Member States to take corrective measures.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes the best way of assuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is the full and non-selective implementation of the NPT, and its universality. The universality of the NPT, in particular in the regions of the tension should be vigorously promoted. In this context, the implementation of 1995 Resolution on the Middle East which was reaffirmed in 2000 must vigorously be pursued. Despite repeated calls by the international community demonstrated in the 1995 Middle East resolution, the UNGA related resolutions as well as those of the IAEA and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Zionist regime has neither acceded to the NPT nor has it placed its clandestine nuclear facilities under full scope of IAEA safeguards. It has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. This Regime is the only non-party to the NPT in the Middle East region. Its unlawful nuclear weapons program, which has been assisted by the United States and France, seriously threatens both regional and international peace and security, and has endangered the non-proliferation regime. The inaction imposed upon the Security Council by the United States over the past several decades in addressing the well-documented nuclear-weapons program of the said regime has given the audacity to it to explicitly acknowledge the unlawful possession of nuclear weapons which was condemned by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, let me reiterate again that Iran as a victim of chemical weapons would peruse vigorously the goal of a world free from weapons of mass destruction.