Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to join the distinguished delegates who spoke before me in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your elections to steer the work of the First Committee.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished delegations of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Allied-Movement and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are meeting once again in this Committee to address critical issues related to international security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is encouraging, among others, to see the start of the implementation of the final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the transparency efforts undertaken by some nuclear weapon states and the entry into force of the new Treaty on the Strategic Arms Reduction (START) by the Russian Federation and the United States. My delegation looks forward to see the implementation in its entirety. However, such achievements have been countervailed by challenges such as the deadlock that besets the Conference on Disarmament.

As the challenges of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation continue to constitute the greatest threat to international peace and security, my delegation welcomes the renewed and growing efforts for a world free of nuclear weapons and hopes concrete progress will be made with regard to nuclear disarmament.
Mr. Chairperson,

It is true that one should be realistic and cannot expect overnight change of the somewhat strained international climate. Yet, it is the conviction of my delegation that there are certain actions if taken can build international confidence, which is critical in advancing international disarmament and non-proliferation. Of which the most important is reaffirming collective commitment to maintain the sanctity of international treaties and agreements by recognizing collectively the need to pursue progress, on both fronts of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is, therefore, imperative that the international community needs to come together and work to promote a world free from nuclear armaments.

Mr. Chairperson,

The relationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the one hand and the peaceful use of nuclear energy on the other hand should be appropriately addressed. It is also important that the issue of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation should be pursued in a balanced manner. Dialogue should be the central instrument in addressing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Sanctions, threats or use of forces can hardly offer a sustainable solution to the proliferation concerns.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation strongly believes that it is the inalienable right of all States to develop all aspects of nuclear science and technology for peaceful use without discrimination as long as it is consistent with the obligations under NPT. My delegation reiterates its strong support for the IAEA’s increased input and assistance to developing countries in the fields of nuclear power, nuclear safety and security and nuclear technology application. The free, unimpeded and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be fully respected.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our concern with weapons of mass destruction is that we should not forget the predicament of conventional weapons. My delegation shares the concerns of many other delegations who spoke before me, on the proliferation of conventional weapons which has become the major instruments of destruction, especially in the developing world. The improvement in production technology, the sophistication and the limitless availability of small arms and light weapons are posing a great challenge to peace, security and development in most parts of the world. The danger of nuclear materials falling into the hands of terrorists and other non-state actors is another area of great concern. My country reaffirms its strong condemnation to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and pledges its full cooperation in combating this phenomenon.
Mr. Chairperson,

Let me add my delegation’s voice, with respect to the ongoing negotiations, on a future Arms Trade Treaty, to underline that the international legally binding instrument must be balanced and take into consideration the concerns of all states and should be consistent with the UN Charter, in particular article 51 which enshrines the right of states to self defense.

Mr. Chairperson,

Disarmament benefits mankind not only because it eliminates threats to peace and security, but also because it helps to divert scarce material and financial resources to efforts that could improve the living standards of humanity. It is suffice to mention, in this regard, that the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved by only a fraction of the amount spent on military expenditure by nations big or small.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me conclude my statement by calling on all concerned parties to demonstrate the needed political will and determination to move the international disarmament and non-proliferation agenda towards achievement.

Thank you.