Mr Chairman,

I would like to present just a brief observation on the issue that has been discussed today, that is nuclear weapons and their elimination in the context of the international non-proliferation regime.

As a Non-Nuclear Weapon State of the Non-Proliferation Treaty the Czech Republic supports implementation of all articles of the Treaty, including nuclear disarmament. However, we are of the view that the longstanding objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be achieved only if the non-proliferation regime meets all demands for its strengthening.

We stress the key role played by the IAEA in this regard and we support all activities aimed at elevating the international verification standard to the highest level. I wish to reiterate that the universal adoption and implementation of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols remains essential for our further endeavours in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. Based on our experience, we are convinced that these two instruments are the IAEA’s most important tools for detecting and deterring the diversion of nuclear materials.

We agree with the conclusions and recommendations of the Action Plan approved at the NPT Review Conference which includes also a set of concrete recommendations with regard to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, we are of the view that at present the international community is far from setting a concrete deadline for reaching the mentioned objective. We are aware that there are still a lot of both political and technical questions that need to be addressed and solved to these ends.

Having in mind major proliferation challenges that have occurred recently, it is of utmost importance for all states to take concentrated and resolute action to ensure strict compliance with their non-proliferation obligations and respond quickly and effectively to non-compliance. We have to pursue responsible development to ensure high standard of safety and security measures and to avoid an increased risk of proliferation.

In our view it is the IAEA nuclear security programme that is essential in addressing the threat of acquisition of nuclear materials or weapons by
non-state actors or terrorists. This programme must be supported not only financially but also through universal implementation of both legally binding instruments and recommended security and physical protection guidelines and measures.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference again confirmed that nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

We do not want to question the inalienable right of any country to do so if it makes use of them in a responsible way. However, it is entirely unacceptable for us if some countries, while ignoring approved and recognized international standards they have committed to abide with, endanger stability in their regions and raise the risk of proliferation. Such behaviour has always raised grave concerns of the international community and naturally also slowed down the processes of nuclear disarmament.

Thank You Mr Chairman