Mr. Chairman,

It gives me great pleasure to address this meeting under your stewardship.

I wish to join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

I also wish to align my statement with those of Nigeria and Indonesia, delivered during this session on behalf of Africa and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

We meet at a time of enormous challenges at the global scale, with the re-emergence of conflicts in some parts of the world and growing mistrust among the Member States of the United Nations which is blocking our efforts to achieve general and complete disarmament in a meaningful manner.

It is absolutely vital that we address the persisting and ever growing mistrust and commit to multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is concerned that, we have made little progress in the disarmament and arms control in the previous session of this committee.

The Conference on Disarmament is yet to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work; the Nuclear Weapons States are yet to make tangible cuts on their nuclear arsenals; and we missed a rare opportunity to adopt a robust multilateral treaty for regulating conventional weapons which are destabilizing and causing immense suffering to our people in Africa and elsewhere.
We must do more during this session and beyond to establish, in the Middle East and in other regions lacking the same, a nuclear-weapon-free zone. We must also promote the implementation of the NPT, particularly the action plans adopted in 2010 on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

It is important that we build on the momentum gained from the successes of Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The outcome of the Review Conference should inspire our negotiations and ultimate adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty, at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

General and complete disarmament is the only assurance that future generations will be spared from the spectre of armed conflicts. While affirming the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defence and security needs, we must also address the growing disparity in the productions, possession and trade in weapons between developed and developing countries.

It critical that, we deploy all the tools at our disposal, to prevent the supply of arms and ammunitions to armed groups and war profiteers, wherever they operate in the world. The increased proliferation of illicit arms to non-state actors, with their attendant consequences, as witnessed in the Sahel region and other parts of the world, is by and large a failure of States to control stockpiles and transfer of the said arms. We must do more to rectify this unfortunate situation, including by adopting a robust ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to conclude by underscoring the essence of restoring trust among the entire membership of the United Nations so we can move forward, in a meaningful manner, this important agenda of disarmament and arms control. We owe it to the current and future generations, to rid ourselves of weapons of mass destruction, including Small Arms and Light Weapons, which are the source of untold suffering and instability in Africa.

I wish all delegations constructive and fruitful deliberations. I thank you.