Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of the full support of Montenegrin delegation for your efforts to bring this session to a successful conclusion.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the EU statement. In addition, I would like to stress certain points that are of particular importance to my country.

Mr. Chairman,

As we all too often had seen in previous years, the year behind us again brought some positive and some not so positive developments in the area of disarmament and international security. I am sure I don’t speak for myself when I say that the overall state of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation is not at the level we have all set for ourselves. Even with limited progress throughout years and longer-than-expected existence of different kinds of weaponry (mainly weapons of mass destruction), hope and expectations are still high that sooner rather than later we will achieve our ultimate goal, that is safer world for all, one that we all subscribed for in the UN Charter, where WMDs will have no place. Much work still remains ahead of us. We can spare no time. There were many lost opportunities. But in spite of it all, there are reasons for optimism on which we need to build upon.

Firstly, in the sphere of nuclear weapons and non-proliferation, after successful 2010 NPT Review Conference, we welcome the positive atmosphere and the solid outcome of the First session of the PrepCom for the 2015 NPT Review Conference as a step in the right direction for the new Review Cycle. Efforts that
are being displayed by two major nuclear powers within the New START Treaty
are commendable and deserve our recognition. Notwithstanding the progress
made so far, world free of nuclear weapons and other WMDs is far from our
reach. Concrete and more effective steps are necessary across all three pillars of
NPT. Proliferation of WMDs continues to constitute a serious threat to
international peace and security. Fully cognizant of this fact, the Government of
Montenegro, in cooperation with Organization for Security and Cooperation in
Europe (OSCE), and with participation of experts from Security Council 1540
Committee, organized a round table on the implementation of Security Council
resolution 1540. The main objective of the meeting was to familiarize and
prepare national institutions for drafting of the National Action Plan on the
implementation of 1540 resolution. My country expressed readiness and political
will to immediately initiate the process and to gather relevant actors to start
working on the Action Plan, with an aim to ensure full and most effective
compliance and implementation.

Early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
must continue to be our priority, as well as strengthening adherence to IAEA
Additional Protocol and IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. As
another crucial opportunity and critical first step we look forward to the
convening of a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of
nuclear weapons and all other WMDs, to be held later this year. Montenegro
welcomes Facilitator’s and Finnish Government efforts in this regard.

Another reason for great concern is the continuing stalemate of the Conference
on Disarmament. Montenegro strongly supports ongoing efforts to break the
deadlock in the CD, so that substantive work and negotiations, already running
very late, can begin on Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty and other important
instruments. We also remain very interested in the expansion of membership of
CD.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all well aware about severe negative and destructive effects of
irresponsible and poorly regulated global trade in conventional arms. As a stark
reminder, two thousand people around the globe are killed every day as a result
of armed violence, which is fueled by illicit conventional arms, mainly small
arms and light weapons. Even though we were unable to reach agreement on
the Arms Trade Treaty last July, Montenegro is of the view that significant
progress was made and we came very close to the finish point. By joining more
than 90 other countries, Montenegro added its voice to the message that we must
conclude ATT so that we can finally establish highest possible standards for
regulating international arms trade. We can not lose momentum and we must
renew and redouble our efforts in order to achieve a robust Treaty. Draft text
submitted by the President on 26 July 2012 should be used as basis for our future work on concluding ATT, which we hope will commence early next year.

On the other hand, Montenegro welcomes the adoption by consensus of a substantive outcome document at the Second Review Conference on UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Recalling that in July of this year Montenegro submitted its first National Report on the implementation of Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, my country remains dedicated to the effective implementation and further strengthening of PoA.

Montenegro reaffirms its attachment to the universalisation and full implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, Ottawa and Oslo Conventions as well as Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Particularly, with regard to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Government of Montenegro and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) are organizing “Thirteenth Annual Workshop to Coordinate Assistance and Protection under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention”, which is being held in Montenegro as we speak, from 10 to 12 October 2012. Participants from many different countries and continents will have the opportunity to review relevant OPCW activities during the last year, exchange ideas regarding challenges relating to the implementation of Article X, and discuss issues related to the preparedness of the OPCW to respond to a chemical weapons incident.


Mr. Chairman,

We must, to the best, use the opportunities presented to us so that significant strides can be achieved on our long path toward safer and more secure world. We need to galvanize our efforts and recommit ourselves to the principles of effective multilateralism, compromise and mutual trust in order to revitalize UN disarmament machinery and strengthen global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Montenegro for its part is firmly dedicated to play an active role and constructively contribute to this end. Montenegrin delegation looks forward to engaging in issues that are on the agenda of the First Committee and is open for pragmatic cooperation in all fields.

So I would like to reiterate to you, distinguished Mr. Chairman, our support to you in bringing this session to its fruitful conclusion.

Thank you.