Mr. Chairman,

Serbia has aligned itself with the statement of the European Union; nonetheless, I would like to stress the following points that are of special interest for my country.

Serbia shares the conviction that risks from the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including the growing danger of non-state actors, especially terrorist groups and individuals, acquiring this type of weapons, present the greatest challenge to international peace and security today. My country is a party to all relevant international instruments and initiatives in this domain and its activities are focused on full implementation of its international commitments and improvement of overall capacities for combating these threats.

The success of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has been a major contribution to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and reaffirming the Treaty as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. Adoption by consensus of its Final Document demonstrates in a clear way the renewed political commitment of the NPT Parties to the goals and objectives of the Treaty. This was a genuine historical achievement but joint efforts need to be intensified in order to translate the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference into real and concrete results. The new cycle of the NPT review process is an important opportunity to assess the practical achievements in the implementation of the forward-looking 2010 NPT Action Plan and define the ways to boost the progress in advancing the three pillars of the NPT relating to nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The spirit of flexibility and compromise clearly demonstrated at the 2010 NPT Review Conference is the way to smooth the path to success also in 2015.

A serious stumbling block to the implementation of the measures provided by the Action Plan is a continuous deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament that has to be overcome through demonstration of clear political will by all Member States. My country attaches particular importance to an early commencement of negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.
Serbia is committed to a consistent fulfillment of its obligations under the NPT which it considers as a vital instrument for achieving our ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Serbia has taken extensive legislative, regulatory and other measures to enhance the implementation of the Treaty, including the adoption of the Law on Protection against Ionizing Radiation and on Nuclear Security in 2009. It provides for the establishment of an independent regulatory Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency that has been fully operational since 2010.

Active cooperation is also established with the IAEA. Through the unique project for the repatriation of spent nuclear fuel from the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences to the Russian Federation as the country of origin, carried out with the assistance of our international partners, Serbia has joined the group of countries no longer having enriched uranium on their territories. Through the VIND project Serbia has contributed in a practical manner to the international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

My country continues to attach great importance to the accomplishment of its obligations under SC resolution 1540 (2004) and has pursued numerous activities with the aim of improving its legislation, standards and practices in this respect. At the beginning of this year, Serbia submitted the updated national report on the measures taken in order to implement this resolution. In April 2012, the Government of Serbia adopted the National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of this resolution for the period 2012-2016. The document has been drafted in cooperation with the experts of the OSCE and the UNSC Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and representatives of all relevant Ministries and government agencies took part in its preparation. The document, *inter alia*, provides for the establishment of a Working Group to monitor and improve the NAP implementation and coordinate national activities in this regard. Serbia is the first country in the wider region to adopt the NAP and will continue to further improve its administrative and regulatory frameworks for the comprehensive and effective implementation of this resolution, as well as relevant physical and technical safeguards standards.

A sound regime against the nuclear tests is one of the key prerequisites to achieve our joint vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Serbia has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 2004 and remains firmly committed to its goals. The fact that several of 64 actions contained in the 2010 NPT Action Plan directly relates to the CTBT confirms the continued value of the Treaty and its importance within the overall international efforts to promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. This Action Plan reaffirmed "the vital importance of the entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime." Although in recent years we have witnessed important progress towards universal adherence to the CTBT, the Treaty has yet to enter into force. Serbia welcomes the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 6th CTBT Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 27 September. It strongly believes that the CTBT entry into force would significantly contribute to reinforcing global peace and security and no efforts should be spared to ensure it. In this context, it strongly encourages all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, especially the States from Annex II, to do so as soon as possible. Meanwhile, it is of particular importance that the moratoria on nuclear test explosions continue to be observed with the understanding that they are no alternative to the comprehensive legal obligations deriving from the CTBT. Serbia supports the commendable work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the establishment of an effective monitoring and verification system with credible control and detection capabilities. It believes that the efforts in this direction are to be considered as important contributions to confidence building and the broadening of the support to the Treaty, bearing in mind also the scientific and practical benefits from the civil applications such as tsunami and natural disasters early warning. Further efforts to improve the verification regime are the best investment into the future of the Treaty.

Serbia welcomes the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to organize, at the margins of the general debate of the 67th session of the UNGA, the high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism focusing on strengthening the legal framework. Effective implementation of the multilateral instruments aimed at preventing and combating nuclear terrorism and enhancing security of nuclear materials and technologies, enhancing regional cooperation and stringent national control measures play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges in a comprehensive way. Serbia stands ready to play an active role in this regard.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.