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 in discharging your important duties.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the EU statement. In addition, I would like to add following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by expressing Montenegro's deep concern and strong condemnation of the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria. The use of chemical weapons is not permissible under any circumstances. These weapons, in accordance with relevant Geneva Protocol and Chemical Weapons Convention, simply do not have place in the 21st century. My delegation emphasizes the importance of bringing the perpetrators of this tragic and horrific act to justice. Incident of 21st of August was yet another reminder of the responsibility of the international community to strengthen global disarmament and non-proliferation regime for the weapons of mass destruction in order to make sure that these weapons will never be used again. To this end, we welcome and fully support United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 and the OPCW Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013 on the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal, which will, it is our sincere hope and expectation, be implemented promptly and to the full extent.
Mr. Chairman,

We continue to see the existence of nuclear weapons. Even with considerable reductions made so far, this is still rather limited progress for the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It is against this backdrop that General Assembly last year launched several initiatives concerning nuclear disarmament negotiations that should be interpreted as calls for the concrete advancement in the reduction of global stockpile of nuclear weapons, that must eventually lead, sooner rather than later, to the creation of conditions for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In this sense it is necessary that the international community takes a modern and pragmatic approach, one that is not trapped in the past but that would instead be future-oriented as to try to bridge the existing differences and unite efforts of nuclear and non-nuclear countries. A sense of recognition of today's reality and orientation towards our common future must prevail, where inter-related and multi-faceted dimensions of the challenges we all face can not be solved by a single country but only through joint, coordinated efforts with long-term perspective, that certainly do not involve nuclear weapons.

We also have to acknowledge the campaign to increase awareness on the possible catastrophic humanitarian consequences that potential use of nuclear weapons presents for humanity. It is in this spirit that my country believes that the Non-proliferation Treaty, as a cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, is the critical foundation that must be better utilized in the pursuit of our ultimate goal, that is safer world for all, one without nuclear and other WMDs. Much work is ahead of us, but Montenegro certainly remains strongly committed to this vision. At the same time, we are fully aware of the serious threat that proliferation of WMDs pose to the international peace and security. For this reason, authorities in Montenegro, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and with participation of experts from Security Council 1540 Committee, are in the final stages of preparing the National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council 1540 resolution, 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 lost opportunity and critical development, we regret the postponement and deem crucial the convening, at the earliest convenience, of a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMDs. Montenegro welcomes Facilitator's and co-conveners efforts in this regard and hopes they would bear fruit soon.
Mr. Chairman,

We also note with regret and share wide range frustration for the continuing stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament, which has been unable to perform its role for over 15 years. 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 all core issues on the CD agenda. We also remain very interested in the expansion of membership of CD and strongly support the appointment of special coordinator to this aim. In this context, allow me also to express our support to all efforts that could lead to the revitalization of the multilateral disarmament machinery.

On a positive note, let me pay tribute to the historical adoption of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty in April by the General Assembly. Since the outset, Montenegro supported and participated in the preparatory process. This eventually transpired in the signing of the Treaty by Montenegro on the first day it was open for signature. Efforts are underway in Montenegro to ratify the Treaty in the coming months, and we will do utmost to be among the first 50 states to ratify the Treaty and hence enable it to enter into force. Once the Treaty enters into force, we have to put it to the best use and ensure the most effective and comprehensive implementation, that would inevitably involve work towards turning the ATT into a truly universal treaty. We owe it to the millions of people around the world living in conflict-affected areas who are waiting for the ATT to make a real difference in their lives. By exercising and promoting responsible trade and with high regard for human rights, Montenegro will certainly remain firmly committed to that goal. I would like to express hope that the adoption of the ATT will provide a positive example and stimulus to regain momentum for other global disarmament and non-proliferation actions.

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, distinguished Mr. Chairman, our support to you in bringing this session to its fruitful conclusion.

Thank you.