Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of the First Committee and to extend our congratulations to the members of Bureau. Allow me also to assure you of my delegation’s full support to your work throughout this session.

Mr. Chairman,

Croatia fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union but allow me to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Prevention and suppression of the potential attacks using weapons of mass destruction related materials is one of the essential contributions to the world peace and security. We are continuously devoted to that goal.

Geographical position makes Croatia suitable, if we are not extremely careful, to become transit country for smuggling weapons of mass destruction related materials. Based on this evaluation of possible threat, Croatia, at the beginning of this year, adopted National Strategy and Action Plan for Combating WMD. Our Strategy can serve as a model according to which other countries in similar geopolitical environments might prepare their own national strategies. We stand ready to share our experience in this field with countries in South-Eastern Region.

Mr. Chairman,

After 1st of July, Croatian position in the EU CBRN Centers of Excellence initiative has changed. As a new EU member state, from the beneficiary country Croatia became the partner and provider country. As a support to the EU CBRN Centers of Excellence initiative, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs hosted in Zagreb at the beginning of October last year an international meeting on the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats in Zagreb.

In the area of non-proliferation and other threats from WMD Croatia together with Poland has conducted Peer Review for the purpose of the effective implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540. We see this activity not only as an important support to further increase our national capacities, not only as mechanism of strengthening our bilateral cooperation, but above all - it was intended to serve as contribution to all UN nations in identifying universal effective practices.
The Peer review conducted by Croatia and Poland in June this year in Zagreb and in Warsaw in October is a pilot project together with UNODA with very new approach and with strong potential in putting together common knowledge and expertise resulting with added value to global needs in implementation of the Resolution 1540. We hope that other countries will recognize the benefits of Peer Review cooperation and that it will become a new successful model of cooperation.

In addition, in May this year, Croatia hosted the Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation. This Conference, as NATO’s largest outreach activity with partners, gathered senior non-proliferation officials from more than 50 countries and international organizations.

Conference provided the opportunity for an open and in-depth informal debate on the future of multilateral non-proliferation regimes and initiatives, current regional proliferation threats and challenges, terrorism and NATO’s contribution to international efforts in the area of WMD non-proliferation.

Also, Croatia and the United States will co-host the "Southeast European Regional Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Executive Table Top Exercise (TTX)" in Zagreb on November 20-21. This Exercise seeks to improve our abilities to meet WMD proliferation challenges in the region; to fulfill our PSI commitments and our obligations under various UN Security Council resolutions and other international frameworks to prevent WMD-related trafficking; and to enhance regional nonproliferation cooperation and coordination.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, we would like to emphasize that recent horrifying events are reminder that the work of the international community in the fight against the weapons for mass destruction is not over. We have to admit to ourselves that threat of terrorism related to WMD is unfortunately present and that no nation or territory is excluded from that threat.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.