Thank you, Mr Chairman. Allow me first to congratulate you on your election as First Committee Chairman. I am convinced that your wisdom, skills and vision will successfully lead us in our work. Let me assure you that my delegation will support and assist you in your endeavours.

Allow me also to express Slovenia's support to the statement of the European Union (EU).

I would like to begin by expressing Slovenia's strong condemnation of the recent use of chemical weapons in Syria. Almost 80 years after the signing of the Geneva Protocol and 20 years after the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention, we witnessed a massive use of chemical weapons against civilians. We believed that such stories belonged to the past and that the international community had closed this chapter a long time ago. We expect that the UN and OPCW missions will soon fulfil their mandates and that those who committed this ferocious crime will be prosecuted and punished.

Mr Chairman, allow me a few words on the matters related to international security, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Slovenia welcomes the adoption and the on-going signing of the Arms Trade Treaty. With this treaty, we seek to effectively regulate the international trade in conventional arms and the related military equipment and technology at the global level to create a better world: a future with fewer international and regional conflicts and civil wars, and, consequently, a future with fewer victims, and a world with more respect for human dignity and human rights. In short, a world with less suffering. We commend the United States for the signing of the Treaty. The signing is indeed a milestone, but, we will not reach our objective if we fail to make the Treaty operational and effectively implement it. The Treaty has to enter into force in order to be effectively implemented. We expect that the ratification process in Slovenia will be concluded by the end of this year. On this occasion, I would like to urge other states to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman, Slovenia, in its capacity as chair of the twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, has already submitted to this Committee – together with Algeria and Cambodia – a draft resolution concerning the Convention. However, we still have a long road ahead of us. We have to pursue all endeavours to clear all mine-affected areas and decrease the number of mine victims. We also have to make the Convention compatible with other international humanitarian law
conventions. We have to strengthen its Secretariat in Geneva and prepare ourselves for the
Third Review Conference in Mozambique. There are still many challenges ahead. This is
why we are convinced that our resolution remains relevant and necessary. We hope that this
time around more UN members will express their support and vote in favour of the resolution.

Mr Chairman, Slovenia deplores the fact that international disarmament forums, such as the
Conference on Disarmament, fail to fulfil their mandates. We are particularly concerned
about the 17-year impasse in the Conference on Disarmament. We support all efforts aimed
at revitalising the multilateral disarmament machinery. We see the work of the Open Ended
Working Group for Nuclear Disarmament, which met this year in Geneva, as a fair attempt to
break this impasse and to offer a possibility to move forward. We believe that the Open
Ended Working Group deserves a new opportunity by extension of its mandate for another
year.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the issue of reporting on national
implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation conventions and multilateral
agreements, international initiatives and relevant Security Council and General Assembly
resolutions. We note with regret that the level of national reporting has been consistently
decreasing. The lack of coherent reporting of the member states is undermining the
credibility of the Treaty system. We have to end this practice and reverse this trend. We are
convinced that this is an attainable goal. We therefore appeal to all delegations to improve
our joint record.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.