Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia congratulates you, Ambassador Sabri on your election as Chairman of the First Committee and to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation also extends our appreciation to the Secretariat for their contribution to our work.

2. My delegation wishes to also convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to our Haitian colleagues and the people of Haiti, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. Malaysia stands in solidarity with the Haitian Government and People during this difficult time.

3. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

4. The existence of more than 15,000 nuclear weapons today continues to pose a serious threat. As modernization and upgrading of nuclear arsenals continue, trillions are being channelled towards this cause. We have witnessed how States have foregone their commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

5. There are also credible fears that non-state actors are attempting to acquire nuclear weapons or materials for terrorism and other criminal acts. Hence, efforts
towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons should continue to be the priority, to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in the event of a nuclear explosion.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The lack of progress on nuclear disarmament is a source of concern and growing frustration among the majority of UN Member States. It is in this context that Malaysia welcomes the recommendations made in the landmark report of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations.

7. We believe that the OEWG process is complementary to the NPT, as it reinforces the commitment towards nuclear disarmament in Article VI of the Treaty, alongside sustenance of the non-proliferation pillar of the Treaty. Therefore, arguments and fears that the process undermines the NPT are unwarranted and unsubstantiated.

8. It must be noted that the evolution of the OEWG process must not be viewed as undermining the Conference on Disarmament (CD) machinery, but one that is complementary and creative, in the absence of decades of tried-and-tested methods.

9. Hence, we call on delegations who have not fully engaged to reconsider their positions and to be part of the collective effort to progress at a desired and more comfortable pace for the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

10. This year, we commemorate the 20th anniversary of signing of the Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT). But, can we really celebrate, when in reality, there is still unfinished business on the treaty? It would seem rather ironic to mark 20 years of a non-entry into force of the CTBT. We firmly believe that the lack of movement to facilitate the entry into force of CTBT is detrimental to the purpose and objective of the treaty.

11. On a positive note, Malaysia welcomes Myanmar and Swaziland as the Treaty's most recent ratifiers. We need to see incrementally positive progress like this, in ensuring the CTBT enters into force at the earliest possible date.

12. Malaysia supported the Security Council Resolution 2310 on CTBT, adopted last month as it strengthens the international norms against nuclear testing. We, however wish to underline that the resolution should not stall or substitute ratification, particularly
by Annex 2 States, but instead inspire fresh impetus for their expeditious signature and ratification of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

13. During Malaysia's Presidency of the Security Council in August, Malaysia convened a high-level Open-Debate on the challenges in addressing the proliferation of WMDs, their means of delivery and related materials to non-state actors. The debate was also held to contribute to the comprehensive review exercise of UN Security Council resolution 1540.

14. During the debate, among others, we called for a regular review of scientific, technological and international commerce advancements that facilitates access to WMD acquisition. We see this aspect as incrementally requiring our sharper focus in the First Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

15. Malaysia is a long standing supporter of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. We believe that NWFZs strengthen peace and security as they promote greater transparency and dialogue among States regionally, eventually leading to the creation of an environment conducive to arms control and obliquely reduce the risk of regional tensions and conflicts.

16. My delegation is firmly committed to the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty. We believe in the value of engagement, to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

17. As we commemorate the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons on 8 July 1996, it is worth recalling that the unanimous decision concluded "that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control".

18. In this vein, Malaysia will submit its traditional resolution on the follow-up to the Opinion, incorporating technical updates, which we will introduce during the upcoming thematic debate. At this juncture, I would like to invite all member states to support the resolution, and to consider joining the growing number of States as co-sponsors.
Mr. Chairman,

19. On conventional weapons, Malaysia continues to undertake necessary steps including internal consultations and possible review of domestic and administrative provisions as part of our consideration to ratify the ATT. Adequate and relevant domestic laws have been established and steps to prevent diversion of arms into illicit market are being taken as part of our contribution towards universalization efforts of the ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

20. In conclusion, let us be bold in fulfilling our obligations by considering options that would allow us advance at a more comfortable pace, towards improving the outcome in a tangible, progressive and substantial way in the First Committee. My delegation remains committed towards this end and in achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

Thank you.