Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to (you) Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom on your election as Chairman of the First Committee, as well as to the other Members of the Bureau. My delegation also extends our appreciation to the Secretariat for their able guidance and facilitation of our work.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

3. The estimated total figure of the global nuclear warhead inventory for 2017 still remains at 15,000 nuclear warheads. These figures have not reduced in the last year as we continue to witness, with dismay, how States continue to neglect their commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), despite continuing to state that great importance is attached to all pillars of the Treaty.

4. We reaffirm the importance of the NPT and its three pillars. Thus, no efforts must be spared in constructively working towards an outcome for the current review cycle. Let us build on the momentum of the success of the adoption of the Prohibition Treaty and engage in the same spirit in this Review cycle.
Mr. Chairman,

5. Malaysia has joined other Member States in signing the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. We are convinced that the political and legal impact of this Treaty will steer the international community collectively towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and the maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons. The instrument is legally sound, feasible to implement and one that sends a powerful political message that nuclear weapons are categorically unacceptable. Thus, we strongly call on Member States that have yet to do so, to sign the Treaty and work together towards its entry into force.

6. We are delighted to acknowledge the work of civil society in their steadfast and unwavering support, commitment and determination, in among others, drawing attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of Nuclear Weapons. As such, we wish to warmly convey our heartiest congratulations to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on 6 October 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Malaysia welcomes the positive achievements by consensus, made by the Open-Ending Working Group on the objectives and agenda for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. We welcome the recommendations made, which include among others, support for the convening of a 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

8. In the same vein, we wish to also recognize the progress made by Disarmament Commission, in achieving the adoption by consensus, the recommendations on 'Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the field of Conventional Weapons. These developments bode well for the disarmament discourse.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia remains steadfastly committed to our international obligations in the fields of disarmament and international security through various national, regional and international approaches. We continue to strengthen and enhance legislative and collective enforcement capabilities in confronting the international security threats, including the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), specifically to non-State actors.
10. Malaysia wishes to reiterate its strong condemnation of DPRK's nuclear tests and missile launches which seriously undermines the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We join other Member States in calling for the need to resume peaceful dialogue and negotiations by relevant parties to find a durable solution to the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

11. On the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), it is deeply disconcerting that despite over two decades since the CTBT opened for signature, the Treaty has yet to enter into force. We view the entry into force of the instrument as crucial in light of the recurrence of nuclear testing and call on Member States, particularly the Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Malaysia believes that Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) strengthen peace and security as they promote greater transparency and dialogue among States regionally, and obliquely reduce the risk of regional tensions and conflicts. We believe it is essential that Nuclear Weapon States provide unconditional assurances against use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the NWFZs.

13. My delegation is firmly committed to the full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ (Bangkok) Treaty. We believe in the value of engagement, to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of Treaty, and look forward to the continued support, by consensus, on the joint biennial resolution on SEANWFZ that will be tabled by ASEAN this year.

Mr. Chairman,

14. Malaysia will continue its efforts this year, to address the destructive nature of nuclear weapons related to the threat or use of nuclear weapons. As such, Malaysia will submit our traditional draft resolution on the 'Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons'. We will introduce the draft resolution during the upcoming thematic debate and 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,

15. On conventional weapons, Malaysia remains supportive towards the universalization efforts of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We also believe that the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is important, in checking the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and will work constructively with Member States in the upcoming 3rd Review Conference in June 2018 in this regard.

16. Malaysia is also supportive of the universal adherence to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and compliance with its provisions. We are committed to our obligations under Article IV and X of the Convention and is currently adopting a national Biological Weapons Bill which will be part of Malaysia's legislative framework that would contribute to the implementation of BWC.

Mr. Chairman,

17. In conclusion, let us be resolute in fulfilling our collective obligations, and be inspired by the developments in field of disarmament 2017 to achieve substantial progress in the First Committee. My delegation stands ready to work with you and all Member States in the global effort towards achieving a general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Thank you.

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