Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election and for steering our important deliberations.

This Committee has indeed a vital role in addressing our current situation. This year the international community is facing even greater and threatening challenges, among them, the increasing risk of terrorist attacks, nuclear tests and an unprecedented number of displaced people because of armed conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

The nuclear and ballistic missile activities by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea constitute an extremely serious threat to international security. San Marino deeply condemns these acts and calls upon the DPRK to abandon its program and all States to effectively implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

It is urgent and essential to seek a political solution to decrease tension in a situation whose consequences are unpredictable and unspeakable.
Mr. Chairman,

Any nuclear detonation would cause catastrophic consequences for the present and future generations and for our planet.

San Marino welcomes the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted last July. This historical Treaty bans the only category of weapons of mass destruction yet to be subject to a global prohibition and although in the short term it may not bring us to our final goal, it remains a step in the right direction and a big contribution for the safeguard of humanity. We hope that this treaty, after decades of paralysis in existing fora, will be the first success of many more to come.

San Marino reaffirms the indispensable role of the NPT within the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We look forward to the NPT Review Conference in 2020 and to its successful outcome. To achieve this objective, it is incumbent that all States fully commit in an open and constructive way during the review cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

While this year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, we have also unfortunately witnessed once again the use of chemical weapons in Syria. San Marino condemns these deplorable and unacceptable acts by any party and in all circumstances and we reiterate that those responsible for such crimes must be held accountable.

Mr. Chairman,

Civilians continue to be innocent victims of today's conflicts. Regrettfully the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is growing and causing unnecessary suffering, generating displacement and the death of many civilians, including children.
Moreover, vital infrastructures and services have been targeted, causing forced displacement and creating additional problems for reconstruction. We need to address effectively this alarming situation.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty. Despite the results achieved with this instrument, unfortunately we have seen an increase in the use of improvised landmines as tools of war in the last years, which is sadly causing a growing number of victims.

Mr. Chairman,

We also need to face the scourge of small arms and light weapons that each year kill half a million people. Irresponsible flows of such weapons foster violence and human rights violations, including killing, rapes, enforced disappearance and enforced recruitment of children by armed groups. The illicit trade of these weapons fuels conflicts, organized crime, terrorism and also creates destabilization and undermines development.

In this regard, we emphasize the link between disarmament and development, while we notice with concern the growing global military spending, which is at the expense of the financing of new development initiatives.

The Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, to be held in 2018, constitutes a good opportunity to continue to work together to strengthen our Programme of Action against this scourge.

Furthermore, we call for the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty, which has to remain a priority in our agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

As just said, the current global environment doesn’t look promising. So what can we do to face these challenges?
We have proved that working together with a strong political will and in a constructive way, we can make progress and we can create and enforce new norms to promote disarmament. Multilateralism is vital to peace and security. We shall therefore continue on this path, which is the only way forward to achieve a world more peaceful and more secure for everybody.

Thank you.