Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me begin by congratulating the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work leading to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Nepal has always supported participation and contribution of civil society on the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman

The vicious race for weapons of mass destruction continues to threaten the world. Nepal remains deeply concerned at the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of the intended or accidental detonation of nuclear weapons and their indiscriminate impact. The risk of disasters is not hypothetical but real. The magnitude would be far greater than mega natural disasters in terms of human and material losses.
Nepal commends the Open-Ended Working Group for finalizing the objectives and agenda for the Fourth Special Session of Disarmament. We hope the current session of the UNGA would be able to agree on the preparatory committee for the SSOD IV.

Nepal continues to stand for an early conclusion of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty. Nepal considers the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free-zones in various regions as critical steps forward to give disarmament a genuine meaning.

In line with her principled position Nepal calls for time-bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including the nuclear weapons. This can only ensure universal peace and security. The dividend of disarmament and non-proliferation should be utilized for the realization of SDGs and for the benefit of mankind.

It is in this spirit, last month Nepal signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We urge all member states of the United Nations to sign and ratify this treaty. We hope, after the entry into force, the treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination and non-production of nuclear weapons which is the only absolute guarantee against their catastrophic consequences.

I take this opportunity to highlight the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which affirms that the threat or use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law.
Nepal does not believe that nuclear weapons are useful deterrents, instead, they are the cause of security dilemma among the nuclear States. Therefore, the nuclear weapons should not find any place in the national security doctrine of any country.

Modernization of the nuclear arsenals, ongoing research on new nuclear warheads and the development of new delivery vehicles need to be halted. Nepal urges to initiate multilateral negotiations, without further delay, in the spirit of the first resolution of the General Assembly and article VI of the NPT, for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Nepal hopes that the United Nations High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, to be convened in 2018, would provide an important opportunity to the international community to review the progress made so far and provide new direction to nuclear disarmament.

As the host to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for the Asia-Pacific, Nepal underlines the need to further accelerate the regional disarmament deliberations under the Kathmandu Process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Nepal also believes that there is an urgent need for a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, and legally binding instrument necessitating nuclear weapon States to provide security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
Nepal believes that, as a core component of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, the credibility of NPT lies in the effective implementation of its mutually reinforcing pillars.

Finally, Nepal calls for uniting our strength and political will to create a safer world for our children, divert the resources spent on sharpening of nuclear arsenals to the attainment of SDGs, and eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons from the face of the world.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.