Mr. Chairman,

1. I congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your elections and assure you of my delegation’s full support.

I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu and UNODA for your efforts in advancing disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement and Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

3. Our world continues to face dire threats posed by prolonged conflicts, violent extremism and terrorism, arms race, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), especially nuclear and chemical weapons. The danger of a nuclear war has become ever-more apparent.

4. Against this backdrop, our Committee has an important task of moving the global non-proliferation and disarmament agenda forward.
To do so, it is of the utmost importance to uphold multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations, as the only efficient and rule-based approach in accordance with the international law and the United Nations Charter, as well as the effective tool for building trust among countries.

5. It is our firm belief that addressing WMD proliferation must be coupled with substantive progress in WMD disarmament, particularly towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, we strongly support international efforts towards this noble goal, especially the historic adoption of a Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to which Viet Nam is proud to be a signatory. We join others in calling on nuclear states to proactively engage in this process.

We welcome the convening of the recent Tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. We also emphasize the need to promote substantive discussions on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in every nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

While addressing these issues, we have to take into account the legitimate rights to peaceful use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) technologies, materials and equipment for social and economic development.

6. At the same time, we need to increase regional and international cooperation to assist states in implementing their respective non-proliferation obligations and commitments, developing effective strategies for countering new types of crime and prohibiting the non-state actors from having access to or using such lethal weapons.

7. We underline the importance of regional nuclear weapons free zones to the existing global non-proliferation regime and call on nuclear-weapon states
to early sign and ratify the respective protocols to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). This year ASEAN is going to table a biannual resolution on SEANWFZ Treaty. ASEAN hopes to receive your valuable support in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Viet Nam shares concern about the danger caused by the illicit trade of conventional arms. Acknowledging the rights of states to manufacture, trade and retain conventional weapons for national self-defence, we fully implement respective obligations under related international cooperation agreements, including the submission of a yearly report on arms imports and exports to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. We support the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

9. Concerning the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), we believe that it should strike a balance between international peace and nation’s legitimate right to self-defence, avoid being abused by political maneuvers.

Mr. Chairman,

10. As a country heavily suffered from cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnances left over from protracted wars, Viet Nam is actively implementing the 2010-2025 Plan of Action for demining and victim assistance. We support the humanitarian objectives of relevant international mechanisms to help affected countries address the aftermath of war, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Anti-personnel Landmines Convention. We thank all international partners who have provided valuable support to us and call on those in a position to do so to join us in this humanitarian endeavour.

Mr. Chairman,
11. We support the further enhancement and reinforcement of the disarmament machinery, particularly the revitalization of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) to negotiate primary issues regarding the disarmament of nuclear weapons and other WMDs, as well as cyber and outer space security. We note with satisfaction that the UNDC has, for the first time since 1999, adopted by consensus the Report of the Working Group II with substantive recommendations on CBMs in the area of conventional weapons. We also welcome the agreed outcome of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament after two decades of stalemate and look forward to its early convening.

Mr. Chairman,

12. It is Viet Nam’s consistent policy to advocate total disarmament and non-proliferation, with the highest priority given to nuclear weapons and other WMDs. Viet Nam is a party to and fully complies with its obligations under all key WMD disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. We actively cooperate with IAEA and other international partners to ensure nuclear safety and security (including the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol, the SEANWFZ).

We earnestly implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including the Resolutions 1540 and 2325 and actively participate in related initiatives. (The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative. We have recently joined the UN Groups of Friends of Resolution 1540 and CBRN).
13. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress that it is within reach to achieve substantive and meaningful progress in the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda with goodwill, trustworthy cooperation, and responsible collective actions. It is high time for us to fulfil our commitment and strive together for a world free of all weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman./.