Thank you.

I would also like to thank the Mexican government for hosting this conference and for the marvellous venue that has been chosen for it. I am speaking on behalf of the government of the Czech Republic, a non-nuclear state in the heart of Europe.

Mr Chairman,

The final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference articulated that the conference expressed its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirmed the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

The devastating immediate and long-term humanitarian impacts of a nuclear weapon detonation are of a clear concern, and that is why we reiterate our unwavering commitment to achieving and maintaining the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

We agree with all conclusions and recommendations of the action plan approved at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which also includes concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless we are worried that we are still far from setting any deadlines for their complete implementation.

We recognise that the treaty is a unique and irreplaceable multilateral instrument for maintaining and reinforcing international peace, security and stability. It should be mentioned that it was the NPT and its commitments that have discouraged 10 to 15 states from achieving nuclear status and acquiring nuclear weapons after its entry into force.

We support the implementation of all articles of the NPT including nuclear disarmament. However, we are of the view that the longstanding objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be achieved only if the non-proliferation regime meets all demands.

Having in mind major proliferation challenges that have occurred, it is of utmost importance for all states to take concentrated and resolute action to ensure strict compliance with their non-proliferation obligations, and respond quickly and effectively to non-compliance.

We deem it unacceptable if some countries do not abide by internationally agreed and recognised standards they have committed to. We are convinced that such behaviour is one of the causes of slow progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. We believe that the objective is achievable only with a truly effective nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In order to achieve a safer future without nuclear weapons for future generations, it is necessary for all of us to concentrate on the fulfilment of the objectives of the NPT, as set out in the agreed 2010 NPT action plan. The action plan, the implementation of which we will
review at the 2015 NPT Review Conference, clearly defines the commitment of all parties of the treaty, including reducing the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons.

It is important that, on the way of achieving the final goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, the humanitarian dimension has been recognised as set out in the action plan. It is also important that all nuclear weapon states have committed to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances.

Nevertheless, there is also a security dimension of the issue, which should be part of the overall solution. Disarmament negotiations with clear objectives and respect for security interests of all parties can hardly be bypassed if the durable solution is sought.

It is our belief that the implementation of the 2010 NPT action plan, adherence to the treaty, and the creation of an effective verification mechanism for a nuclear disarmament process should facilitate creating new conditions for achieving our common objective.

Thank you.