Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 Review Conference of the NPT expressed “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. Indeed, there would be no single country that could address it alone. This issue extends discussions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We must work together to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental. That is why we continue to support a process that would lead to the total elimination of nuclear arsenals, including the reasons for their existence thus eliminating effectively the above threat.

Issue of humanitarian consequences of a use of nuclear weapons is certainly an important element of a complex framework of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. We understand that the framework is aimed at pursuing an ultimate goal of creating a world free of nuclear weapons, which Slovakia fully supports.

We believe that achieving this shared goal requires sustained, practical efforts as well as high-level political will, which must be demonstrated by all countries. Special attention and responsibility in this regard is, indeed, placed on states with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

My country is fully committed to creating a safer world for all of us. Disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament, is an important tool that can get us closer to this goal. Since the process of disarmament affects the vital security interests of all states, they must all actively contribute to the measures of disarmament, which have an essential play in maintaining and strengthening international security.

We always seek guarantees that nuclear disarmament efforts lead to verifiable and irreversible changes in a process of the elimination of nuclear arsenals. While recognizing a role of non-nuclear weapon states in pursuing nuclear disarmament, we believe that the vision of a world without nuclear weapons would need a substantive and constructive engagement of nuclear weapon states. Their participation is crucial if a ban on nuclear weapons is to be translated into elimination of nuclear arsenals too.

At the 2010 Review Conference, we have adopted the Action Plan, which also includes important steps for advancing nuclear disarmament. We should work towards its full implementation. It is the only way how we can build trust across the whole non-proliferation regime and prevent undermining the credibility of the NPT process.
Mr. Chairman,

In building our future global security environment, we need to look beyond individual steps and focus at this final goal. Progress towards this objective requires the conclusion and implementation of a set of agreements, which would create conditions for achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons.

In advancing nuclear disarmament, we should work towards a framework, which would be based on and reaffirm a commitment for total elimination of nuclear weapons and would lay ground for separate yet guaranteed, mutually reinforcing legally binding instruments.

We can make progress if we work through engagement rather than enforcement, in an inclusive rather than a selective process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.