Mr. Chair,

My delegation has already outlined its view on nuclear disarmament in our statement and working paper. This paper also addresses negative security assurances.

It is the view of my delegation that negative security assurances can contribute in reducing the attractiveness for states to acquire nuclear arms. In this perspective negative security assurances serve the cause of non-proliferation.

Negative security assurances can also contribute to nuclear disarmament by removing the possibility of using or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. That would lead to a diminished role of nuclear arms in security policies.

Norway has supported the commencement of negotiation to reach legally binding negative security assurances within the framework of the NPT.

In the meantime, we call upon the nuclear-weapons states to abide by their unilateral security assurances given in the UN Security Council in 1995. We appreciate that the nuclear-weapons states on various occasions have reiterated this commitment.

Finally Mr. Chair, nuclear weapons-free zones provide an important avenue for obtaining negative security assurances. We encourage further progress in the deliberations between concerned parties with the view to reach agreement on the relevant protocols to be signed and ratified by the nuclear weapons-states.