EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great honour for me to declare open the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

After a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference with the consensus adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Actions, I am confident that the Preparatory Committee will accomplish what we would like it to achieve.

I wish to encourage delegations to infuse the PrepCom with the same level of enthusiasm, flexibility and focus that were the hallmarks of the 2010 Review Conference. It is crucial that we sustain the momentum from 2010 by fully implementing the Review Conference’s 64-point action plan, including the agreement on the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, as well as the action on the regional issue relating to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. We may have to reaffirm certain principles and agreements, but we must act and do what we already agreed in order to fulfill our obligations under the NPT.
This first session of the Preparatory Committee has been convened pursuant to resolution 66/33 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 December 2011.

It is my privilege and duty to take up a particular issue, namely the election of the Chairman for the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

**[Election of the Chairman]**

Following previous practice, the Western Group has nominated His Excellency Peter Woolcott, Australia’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Ambassador for Disarmament, for the chairmanship of the first session.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect His Excellency Peter Woolcott by acclamation as Chairman of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

It is so decided.

I wish to express my cordial congratulations to His Excellency Peter Woolcott on his election as Chairman of the first session. I am convinced that with his vast experience and diplomatic skill he will lead the session to success.

The 2010 Review Conference recognized the importance of ensuring optimal coordination and continuity throughout the review cycle and therefore I am particularly pleased to be here to share in the opening of the new review cycle. I wish to assure Ambassador Woolcott of my fullest support and cooperation, as well as that of the Philippine delegation.

I would now like to invite the Chairman to take his seat on the podium.

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