Mr Chair,
Allow me to join the others in congratulating you on taking on this important task. In the 2010 Review conference we were at a critical juncture, but succeeded in our attempt to reinforce the NPT with an extensive action plan that defines the pace toward the next Review Conference in 2015. This is our first opportunity to jointly take stock of our progress.

Mr. Chair,
The 2010 Review conference brought to the forefront the very reason why the treaty was established forty years ago. The outcome document referred explicitly to the “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and “the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law”. This points to the urgency of giving increased attention by State Parties to nuclear weapons and International Humanitarian Law, and we expect this issue to be brought forward during the 2015 Review Conference.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Norway intends to host a conference in spring 2013 to highlight the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including the incompatibility of their use under international humanitarian law (IHL).

Mr Chair,
The NPT has been a cornerstone of our collective security for 40 years and will remain so. However, there are concerns that need to be addressed. We need to confirm our joint expectation that all States Parties fulfil their obligations to the NPT. The 2010 Action Plan should be an effective tool, and we should encourage as much reporting as possible on its implementation during this cycle. Accountability builds trust in our joint commitment. We also need to raise the issues of non-compliance and appropriate responses to abuse of the NPT’s withdrawal provision.

In addition, we need to ensure that all procedural questions are resolved before the 2015 conference, and we expect the Prep Com to be utilized in order to maximise our technical and substantial preparation. Our preparations must be guided by the spirit of compromise.
In the end, our primary task is to maintain a broad-based common understanding on how to address nuclear dangers, and how to ensure that peaceful nuclear applications can be ensured in a more secure world without nuclear weapons.

There can be no NPT à la carte. Full nuclear disarmament can only be achieved when there is full confidence that no one can circumvent the non-proliferation regime. The much needed steps to tighten up non-proliferation can only be taken if there is an unequivocal and irreversible process towards complete elimination of existing nuclear arsenals. Strengthened non-proliferation must also facilitate peaceful uses.

Mr Chair,
We need to reaffirm the overall political objective of a world without nuclear weapons, and in order to do so we should take into account the following:

- The new START accord should be a first step of a more intensified disarmament process, covering all categories of weapons, and involving all nuclear weapons states. They must refrain from developing new types of weapons. By 2015, the total number of war-heads must be substantially lower than today. It goes without saying that disarmament must be pursued on the principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility.
- The process of reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies must continue. An important step would be to further strengthen the negative security assurances.
- We must intensify efforts to sustain existing regional nuclear weapons free zones. The conference later this year should be the beginning of a process to move us closer to such a zone for the Middle East in the years to come.
- Likewise, it is essential to make real progress in securing the entry into force of the CTBT.
- We must start working on a treaty banning production of fissile material for weapons purposes and start a process of reducing existing stocks.
- It is high time to reach a common understanding that the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement and the Additional Protocol
protects our collective security and should be the standard arrangement for all states, also because it facilitates peaceful uses.

- We must seek full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540.
- We must secure all sensitive nuclear materials and develop international cooperation on nuclear fuel cycles.
- We must reaffirm the right to peaceful uses. Civilian nuclear applications also cover areas such as health, agriculture, water management and the environment, which are essential for economic and social development.

Mr Chair,
All countries have a responsibility to do their part in creating conditions which will enable us to abolish nuclear weapons.

If we are to succeed, we must take innovative approaches. We should continue to build bridges; we must reach out across regional groupings and overcome past polarisations. The NPT cannot be considered a zero sum game. We must identify a win-win for all.

A good example is the issue of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The potential gain for all countries concerned is huge. And for the NPT, an important factor behind the success of the NPT review conference in 2010 was the decision to hold a conference on the subject in 2012. We are very encouraged by the forceful manner in which Finland and ambassador Layava has taken up the task of facilitating this conference, and offer our continued full support.

Mr Chair,
Allow me to make a final point. Achieving a world free of nuclear weapons will require the mobilisation of all stake-holders. We must fully engage civil society. We should view NGOs and academia as partners in this work, and we trust that the meeting will be conducted with this spirit.

Finally Mr Chair,
Our expectation is that this prep com will continue to reinforce the norm of the NPT. It is up to us to consolidate and further strengthen this vital treaty. Let us seize this opportunity.