Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me add now a few points from the national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia, as a state using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, recognizes a value of the Article IV of the NPT, which is a vital part of the comprehensive bargain accomplished under the Treaty.
Slovakia fully supports peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, trust and confidence are the key elements for its development if we want to take full advantage of it. It must be realized hand in hand with the highest safety and security standards as well as non-proliferation conditions.

We understand that it may be a tough mission to develop an universal appreciation for the peaceful – which at the same time means non-violent – use of nuclear power in a world.

We have multilateral instruments at our disposal designed to verify the absence of activities not consistent with the NPT. We believe that the full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Additional Protocol should become a current verification standard, which would enable to provide a confidence that nuclear energy is developed in the best non-proliferation conditions. We must work towards universalisation and reinforcement of these instruments.

Slovakia considers Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment as key tools of global nuclear security. In February 2013 my country submitted the letters of ratification of the Amendment of the CPPNM to the Director General of the IAEA. Slovakia will also actively participate in the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts to be held in July 2013 in Vienna with the objective to evaluate the outcomes
achieved so far in the area of nuclear security and to review future challenges in this field, mainly the threats linked to the nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear energy is essential for meeting overall energy needs in Slovakia. Nuclear power plants cover for a substantial percentage of my country's electricity production. According to our national energy strategy, nuclear energy will remain an important source of energy in the long term.

Slovakia cooperates with the NPT State Parties and relevant international organizations in all aspects of the nuclear programme. International law, international partnership and sharing of expertise have been important in development and sustainment of a safe and secure nuclear programme in Slovakia.

We are now undergoing process of strengthening our nuclear energy legislative framework to meet the highest standards of security, safety and transparency that have been set by the IAEA, the European Union and various international platforms. We have successfully commenced the European stress tests and incorporated the lessons learned into the National Action Plan. We encourage other countries to perform risk and safety assessments for nuclear power plants in operation and under construction in cooperation with the Agency.
Mr. Chairman,

In order to contribute to the international discussion in the area of nuclear safety, Slovakia in close cooperation with the Government of Japan recently hosted the International Symposium on Nuclear Safety where experts shared both knowledge and impressions to reinforce our approaches to more secure and technologically advancing nuclear power production. Emergency management preparedness, long-term approach to nuclear energy and humanitarian aspects were also addressed.

Slovakia welcomes the forthcoming International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st century that will be held in Saint Petersburg and it stands ready to contribute to the discussion on the viability and the prospects of the nuclear energy in this century.

The real value of preventive measures and attitudes only become apparent after they have failed to prevent harm. The NPT State Parties have worked against such harm, and Slovakia fully agrees that instead of being afraid, we should reinforce our focus on nuclear safety and security and on maintaining nuclear power for peaceful applications.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.