Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Nigeria congratulates you and other members of the bureau on your election as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of this Second PrepCom session. We remain hopeful that under your able leadership, this session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference would harness the gains of the past and incrementally build on the success recorded at the First PrepCom under the guidance provided by Ambassador Peter Woolcott. We assure you of full cooperation and constructive engagement in the course of deliberations and further negotiations.

Nigeria aligns itself with the Statement read by Iran on behalf of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that are State Parties of the NPT. Having said this, my delegation wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

We look forward to the forthcoming NPT Review Conference, not the least because it is expected to evaluate the progress made and results achieved since 2010; including the implementation of undertakings by States Parties, but also in its mandate of identifying further measures that could strengthen the implementation of the Treaty. By doing this, we invariably build on existing efforts towards the realization of the overall objectives of the NPT as reflected in the three pillars of Nuclear Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and the Peaceful uses.

Mr. Chairman,

These objectives require us to eliminate nuclear weapons, while harnessing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind. Nuclear technology remains benign, beneficial and productive to mankind, until such knowledge is adapted for purposes other than peaceful uses. We therefore strongly support the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reaffirm the high priority it attaches to complete nuclear disarmament. We see this as the path to effective non proliferation. We will continue to emphasize that the existential threat posed to mankind by nuclear weapons, including their possible use or threat of use, remains unacceptable. The Oslo Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons hosted in March 2013 by the Government of Norway made clear that the detonation of a nuclear device would have grave humanitarian consequences that will spread beyond national borders and significantly impact human beings across regions and across the world. This is a price too high to pay. Consequently, my delegation urges NWS and NNWS aspiring to acquire nuclear weapons to reduce the role of these weapons in their military doctrines.

Nigeria joins the vast majority of NPT States Parties to express deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and what could be considered as lack of real progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) in eliminating their nuclear arsenals as required by their legal obligations and undertakings. We call on them to promote transparency with respect to their undertakings on irreversibility and verifiability. The forthcoming Review Conference presents us with yet another opportunity to demonstrate such commitment.

As a member of the De-Alerting Group, Nigeria continues to stress that reductions in both the deployment and operational status of nuclear weapons should not become a substitute for their total elimination. Accordingly, we call on NWS to fulfill, in good faith, their overdue legal obligations under Article VI of the NPT. This would also help to ensure compliance with undertakings under the 13 practical steps and the 64 action plan of 2010 on disarmament of nuclear weapons and to accomplish the total elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Chairman,

The indefinite extension of NPT should not be construed as implying indefinite possession of nuclear arsenals by any Member State, including those that may aspire to acquire such weapons in the future. Any assumption along this line would be incompatible with the principles and purposes of the Treaty and impugn its integrity and sustainability.
At the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, the delegation of Nigeria joined 165 countries to vote in favour of the resolution banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices. We reiterate that, while FMCT could serve a dual disarmament and non-proliferation purpose, its potential might not be fully realized, if it is only limited to future production of fissile materials while neglecting existing stocks.

The delegation of Nigeria looks forward to the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament to be held on 26 September 2013. We are prepared to engage constructively in the meeting and call on all other Member States to do the same.

Nuclear safety is another matter of great concern to Nigeria and we call on the IAEA to continue to work with all Member States to implement its Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. This should be done with a view to promoting a robust safeguards system while enabling peaceful nuclear activities by Member States in line with compliance mechanisms.

Nigeria sees the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones as a veritable step towards the total elimination of these weapons and as a means of pursuing the denuclearization of all regions. They are crucial components of our meeting and we should continue to consolidate existing nuclear weapons free zones as the ultimate regional and continental confidence-building measure. We call on States yet to sign or ratify the Pelindaba Treaty, including its protocols, to do so without delay. We also support the call to convene the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in line with the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference. We regret that the Conference could not hold in 2012, as expected.

The long-standing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament is a matter of great concern to the Nigerian delegation. This situation has regrettably held back negotiations on nuclear disarmament. We see a lack of political will as being at the root of this impasse and call on all members of the CD to show greater commitment to resolving the problem to enable the CD achieve the mandate given to it by SSOD I.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we encourage all States Parties to earnestly work toward ensuring the success of the 2015 NPT Conference. On our part, we remain firmly committed to contributing meaningfully to its success just as we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.