Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Nigeria on behalf of the De-Alerting Group. In addition, my delegation wishes to make the following points.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As early as 1946, the UN General Assembly in its first resolution spoke about the elimination of nuclear weapons. Yet sixty seven years on, there are tens of thousands of nuclear weapons that still remain. While Malaysia welcomes positive developments such as the implementation of New START between the Russian Federation and the United States, we wish to highlight that as long as these horrendous and destructive weapons exist, the have-nots will also yearn for it. More importantly, this will negatively impact the realisation of a world free of nuclear weapons.

3. There are credible fears that non-State actors may wish to obtain nuclear weapons or materials. Hence, efforts leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons should remain the priority of the international community in our endeavour to realize a nuclear weapon free world.

4. Malaysia has always maintained a principled position on the general and complete disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we are also strongly committed that this goal should be achieved through the multilateral process. Malaysia is already a party to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. While these two Conventions were negotiated and finalised many years ago, we are disappointed at the resistance and reluctance of some States to initiate and support a similar Convention on the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons. Malaysia firmly believes that the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only solution against the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
Mr. Chairman,

5. An assessment on the security policies of the nuclear-weapon States reveals their unshakeable reliance on nuclear weapons based on the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. This position is further aggravated by the nuclear cooperation programmes that some of them maintain with non-nuclear-weapon States, which include the deployment of nuclear weapons in cooperating States. This is a clear violation of the NPT. It promotes nuclear proliferation of another kind, and instability, in that it would justify any nuclear-weapons State in supplying nuclear weapons to its allies for similar strategic reasons.

6. The misguided assumption on the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence has also led other States to join the nuclear arms race. Recent events in Northeast Asia have escalated due to the strong but misguided belief that nuclear weapons are an effective deterrent and imperative tool for the survival of a nation. We remain unconvinced of such arguments, especially in the current security climate. Further, we fail to see how the doctrine of nuclear deterrence could be effectively applied against rogue regimes and non-State actors.

7. Against such a backdrop, Malaysia hopes that serious efforts will be made to give substance to the action plan on nuclear disarmament of the 2010 Review Conference. We call upon the Nuclear-Weapons States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading up to nuclear disarmament as outlined in Action 5 of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. States Parties are required to fulfill their respective obligations under the NPT in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner. This is important to further build the much needed trust and confidence, which are key ingredients to progress in disarmament.

8. It is therefore with deep dismay that we note the lack of any progress in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The continuing impasse in the CD reflects the lack of serious commitment to the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, particularly on the four core issues that we have before us in the Conference. To overcome this impasse, the CD would have to re-conquer its relevancy as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. In this regard, we would reiterate our exhortation to the CD Member States to further exercise the much needed political will and to agree on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work without further delay.

9. The current stalemate in the CD has led to other efforts outside of the Conference to deal with nuclear disarmament. Malaysia is encouraged by the positive developments at the recent First Committee of the UN General Assembly with the resolution on the Open Ended Working Group in taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, the resolution on the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament as well as the resolution on the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on a treaty banning the production of fissile material.
Mr. Chairman,

10. Turning to the issue of nuclear testing, my delegation is encouraged by the continued positive response by countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We hope that this positive trend will solidify the norms against nuclear proliferation and further development of nuclear weapons. Malaysia also strongly urges the remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the Treaty, so as to affect its entry into force as soon as possible. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, it is important to ensure that the current moratorium on nuclear testing is being and will continue to be observed, while exerting every effort to secure the universal endorsement of the Treaty. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Chad.

11. We are also deeply concerned with the nuclear weapons modernisation programmes that are being undertaken by the nuclear-weapon States. Such programmes undermine existing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regimes, and do not contribute towards building confidence among non-nuclear weapons States. It will eventually deal a serious blow to the viability of any disarmament negotiating treaty in general.

12. We believe that the only effective and sustainable way to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons is through the total elimination of nuclear weapons by all those that possess such weapons. The concept and distinction of Nuclear and Non-nuclear Weapons States is unsustainable and unjust. Over time, some will begin to question the usefulness of these treaties and conventions and of their own participation in them, which would eventually deal a serious blow to the viability of the NPT and to the disarmament process in general.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.