Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

As it was underlined in the statement during the general debate, Ukraine considers the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Yet, until this goal remains unattainable, the issue of the security assurances continues to be one of the veritable priorities of the international disarmament agenda and of the NPT process.

We recall UN Security Council resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995), containing the relevant unilateral statements of the nuclear-weapon States (NWS), in which they gave conditional or unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT. Ukraine recognizes the good practices in regard of the “non-use” protocols to the treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs).

However, these measures do not protect non-nuclear states against the use of nuclear weapons by the States, which remain outside of global regime of nuclear non-proliferation.

As a country which declared non-bloc and non-nuclear-weapon status, Ukraine continues to prioritize granting the non-nuclear-weapon states with the legally-binding security assurances. This issue remains to be of particular importance taking into account the continuing development of new types of weapons and the upgrade of the existing nuclear arsenals.

Early launch of the negotiations on the elaboration of the comprehensive multilateral international treaty on the security assurances will represent an achievable step towards fulfillment of the commitments undertaken under Action 7 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

In our view the respective international instrument must include the following commitments:
a) not to use force or threaten to use force against the territorial integrity or political independence of non-nuclear states and to respect their sovereignty and existing borders;

b) to refrain from political, economic and other forms of pressure on non-nuclear states in order to subjugate their sovereign rights;

c) to assist the country which is a victim of act of aggression or threat of aggression using nuclear weapons;

d) the provisions, determining the liability for violating these basic obligations and the procedures for the international community to respond in the event of a nuclear attack on state sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-nuclear state.

The international community should utilize all existing institutional mechanisms, including the Conference on Disarmament, to promote the consideration of this issue and undertaking practical steps towards negotiation of the universal, non-conditional and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

Ukraine reiterates its previous proposals to this end, namely the convocation of the international conference under the UN auspices as well as the establishment of the UN Group of Governmental Experts tasked with conducting relevant thematic study.

Ukraine also supports the establishment of a subsidiary body of the 2015 NPT Review Conference for consideration of the issue of security assurances for non-nuclear states.

We strongly believe that these undertakings would significantly contribute to elaboration of the universally acceptable solution, which would considerably strengthen the non-proliferation regime and promote disarmament agenda.