Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you for your election as chair of the 3rd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference that we started on Monday. I am confident that you will guide us wisely throughout this meeting. Let me assure you that my delegation will fully support your endeavors.

I would like to align my statement with the statement of the European Union (EU), delivered by the European Union Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Ambassador Jacek Bylica. Allow me to highlight a few points that are of particular importance to Slovenia.

Mr. Chairman, as a staunch supporter of the NPT, Slovenia continues to consider the NPT as a cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and consequently a cornerstone of international peace and security. Slovenia believes in a balanced consideration of all three pillars of the NPT and continues to share a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons presented by US President Barack Obama. We are convinced that the NPT should continue to play a central role in our joint endeavors to turn this vision into reality. Next year we will meet here at the 2015 NPT Review Conference to assess the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference and decide how the States Parties will proceed in the next five years, i.e. until the 2020 Review Conference. In the course of next two weeks, we should take relevant decisions in order to facilitate a smooth start of the 2015 Review Conference. To that end, we should adopt the agenda of the Review Conference and identify and decide on the chairperson of the 2015 Review Conference already at this meeting of the Preparatory Committee. We count on your wisdom, which will enable us to adopt these two important decisions.

Mr. Chairman, at the 2010 Review Conference, we also decided to convene a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in 2012. Unfortunately this has not yet been realized. However, Slovenia commends Ambassador Jaako Laajava of Finland for his tireless efforts to enable the convening of this conference. We encourage him to continue his efforts and hope that the conference will be convened before the Review Conference in May 2015.
Mr. Chairman, there have been many new developments over the past several years. We are concerned about the ongoing war in Syria and the crisis in Ukraine. We should not forget that Ukraine gave up nuclear weapons in 1994 with the Budapest Memorandum. We sincerely hope that the de-escalation of tensions in this country is still attainable without serious implications for regional and international peace and security. This period has also brought some more encouraging developments, such as the agreement on Iran's nuclear program concluded in January this year. We hope for its implementation as well as for further steps towards a comprehensive solution.

Mr. Chairman, this meeting of the Preparatory Committee will address many issues, and Slovenia will provide its comments on some of them. I would like to particularly highlight today's 10th anniversary of the adoption of resolution no. 1540. With this resolution we adopted new international standards on how to deal with the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, mainly terrorists. This issue was overlooked in the past, which is no longer the case. Slovenia is satisfied with the implementation of this resolution. More than 170 states reported on their activities, which is a major success. We commend the Security Council for extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee until 2021.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.