Mr Chairman,

1 The Singapore delegation congratulates you, on your election as the Chair of the 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This meeting presents an important opportunity to address the most pressing challenges confronting the NPT today. We are confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will be a success.

2 In recent years, the NPT has come under severe stress. Concerns about non-compliance with the Treaty and fundamentally divergent perceptions about the adequacy, fairness and purpose of the NPT have led to a crisis of legitimacy and relevance. The chasm between Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) has grown wider over the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament on the one hand and the perceived over-emphasis on nuclear proliferation on the other hand. Israel, India and Pakistan remain outside the ambit of the NPT. The DPRK has withdrawn from the NPT and maintains a nuclear programme that does not come under any international safeguards regime.

3 Singapore firmly supports the objectives of the NPT and its three pillars of **nuclear disarmament**, **nuclear non-proliferation** and **peaceful uses of nuclear energy (PUNE)**. The three pillars are mutually reinforcing and equally important. They represent a delicate balance of interests, which constitutes the core bargain of
the Treaty. Failure to achieve progress in one pillar will affect the impetus on the others.

First Pillar: Nuclear Disarmament

4 We recognise that complete nuclear disarmament remains a long term aspiration. Nuclear-armed states must believe that it is in their long-term national security interest not to rely on nuclear deterrence. Nevertheless, we have to start somewhere and even small steps matter. Nuclear-weapon states can do much more to reassure non-nuclear weapons states of their commitments under Article VI of the Treaty. We regret that the political commitment to achieve real progress on nuclear disarmament remains weak. The US and Russia, which possess close to 95% of the world’s nuclear weapons, have a special responsibility to lead by example. To that end, we welcome President Obama’s call last year to further cut the US and Russia’s nuclear arsenals by a third, from the level agreed in the New START. We strongly encourage the US and Russia to commence discussions on this issue. In the meantime, other steps could be taken by all Nuclear Weapons States, including refraining from qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. Crucially, we must also find a way to involve non-NPT states with nuclear weapons capabilities in disarmament discussions. Their continued exclusion fundamentally undermines our collective efforts towards complete nuclear disarmament.

5 The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains a key tool to advance disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and build mutual trust and confidence. Its entry into force is long overdue. Singapore welcomes Guinea-Bissau, Iraq and Niue’s ratification of the CTBT since the PrepComm in Geneva last year. We urge all countries, in particular, the remaining countries in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the CTBT. Progress also needs to be made at the Conference of Disarmament and on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) which have been at an impasse for too many years.

6 Singapore supports the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones, which are concrete steps taken by non-nuclear weapons states to fulfil their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty. Singapore is party to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), which entered into force in 1997. The establishment of the Zone has played a critical role in the continued peace, stability and security in our region. We remain committed to keep our Zone free of nuclear
weapons. We hope that all five Nuclear Weapon States will do the same and encourage them to sign the Protocol to the SEANWFZ without reservations as soon as possible. We also urge all relevant parties to work together constructively to expeditiously convene the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as mandated by the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Second Pillar: Nuclear Non-Proliferation

7 The risk of proliferation of nuclear technology and material as well as dual-use items for military purposes remains a major concern. In this regard, nuclear non-proliferation could be strengthened on several fronts. First, through enhancing nuclear security measures at the national, regional and international level. It is important that we secure both civilian and non-civilian nuclear material and facilities. Second, by acceding to and fully implementing key international legal instruments such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment. Singapore will be acceding to the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment shortly. We also encourage the NPT State Parties who have not done so to sign on to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol. Singapore acceded to the Additional Protocol in 2005.

8 Third, we should work towards a more robust international export control regime to guard against illicit trafficking, while at the same time not hampering legitimate trade. As a major transhipment hub, Singapore takes our counter-proliferation obligations seriously. However, it is insufficient for only some jurisdictions or ports to tighten their export control regimes. The entire supply chain must be secure, otherwise proliferators will simply exploit the weakest link. Singapore is committed to safeguard our link of the global supply chain. We have a robust export controls system and fully abide by all our international obligations, including under UN Security Council Resolution 1540. In addition, we participate in relevant multilateral and regional initiatives, including the Container Security Initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation.

9 With respect to countries of proliferation concern, Singapore urges the DPRK to return to the NPT, fully comply with all relevant UNSC Resolutions, and cooperate promptly with the IAEA in the full and effective implementation of its
comprehensive safeguards obligations. On the Iranian nuclear dossier, we are encouraged by the recent progress made between the P5+1 and Iran; as well as between Iran and the IAEA to address the international community’s concerns over the nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. We believe that with strong political will and sincerity from relevant players, it is possible to reach a durable and comprehensive agreement.

Third Pillar: PUNE

10 The peaceful application of nuclear science and technology can help to improve the socio-economic conditions in many countries. Singapore supports the right of sovereign states to peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology provided for under Article IV of the NPT. However, rights come with responsibilities. The peaceful application of nuclear science and technology must be carried out in a safe, secure and safeguarded manner. As more countries consider the use of nuclear science and technology, including nuclear energy, for the first time, the international community can assist in sharing knowledge and expertise. The IAEA, in particular, should assist with training and other capacity-building programs to help countries establish the necessary regulatory and legal infrastructure to promote the highest standards of nuclear safety and security and enhance their emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

To conclude, Mr Chairman,

11 The NPT is facing serious existential challenges and must evolve to keep pace with current realities. In addition, we need to take into account developments outside the NPT, in particular, in respect of non-NPT State Parties, which affect the credibility and relevance of the whole regime. This review process is an important opportunity for us to have a frank and constructive dialogue on how we can ensure the Treaty’s continued relevance. We need to reaffirm our commitment through concrete action and propose practical and pragmatic steps to advance the core objectives of all three pillars of the NPT.