Mr Chairman,

Congratulations on assuming the important task of chairing this third PrepCom. I assure you of the full cooperation of the Swedish delegation.

Sweden fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union. I will now make some additional points from a national perspective.

Mr Chairman,

Sweden joined the NPT to improve national, regional and global security through nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As you may know, Sweden had a nuclear R&D program in the 1950s and 60s. It took us some years to come to the decision that we would be more secure and better serve international security, if we were to give up this program. We chose to do so and to work together with others, including those countries that possessed nuclear weapons, to achieve a comprehensive and solid disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Sweden signed the NPT when it was opened for signature in 1968. We have never regretted this decision.

The NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and for efforts to eventually achieve a world without nuclear weapons. The three mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT - disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy - remain a sound and strong basis for this work. Over the years, the Treaty has been reinforced by commitments made in the
Review Conferences, most notably in 1995, in 2000 and in 2010. It is essential that commitments on all three pillars are implemented through concrete action by all States. This ensures both a successful outcome of the review cycles and the strengthening of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Mr Chairman,

It is essential in our view that we continue to build an increasingly robust framework of mutually reinforcing and complementary treaties, institutions and commitments – a building block approach that unyieldingly narrows the margin for nuclear weapons in international peace and security.

This approach is further elaborated in the working paper “Building Blocks for a World without Nuclear Weapons” submitted by 20 states, including Sweden.

Mr Chairman,

The opportunities for nuclear disarmament have to be fully seized. Old postures and alert levels largely remain as they did during the Cold War, as does the reliance on nuclear deterrence. This contravenes the growing understanding of the need to further disarm in order to enhance security and improve human development.

Additional steps can be taken: Sweden calls on the nuclear weapon states to make further deep reductions in their arsenals of nuclear weapons—strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed—in order to fulfil their obligations under the NPT and other agreements. Sweden is particularly concerned about the continued existence of sub-strategic nuclear weapons in our own region, and urges all parties concerned to take steps so as to reduce this threat.

Sweden believes that negotiations on nuclear disarmament, in order to be effective, have to include those countries that possess nuclear weapons. It also seems necessary that such negotiations address both humanitarian and security-related aspects.

Mr Chairman,
The CTBT is a crucial element for both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Since handing over the torch as Article XIV Coordinator last year, Sweden continues to promote the CTBT. We recently hosted a meeting in Stockholm of the Group of Eminent Persons, which focuses on new and innovative approaches for bringing the Treaty into force. Our technical support for the CTBT verification regime continues, including through further development of the noble gas system SAUNA to help detect underground nuclear explosions.

The FMCT is another essential building block, which is long overdue. It is very welcome that the Group of Governmental Experts has recently begun its important work in Geneva.

Sweden is an active member of the IAEA Board of Governors. We strive to strengthen the IAEA Safeguards System and Additional Protocols and uphold the Agency’s important role in global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. We have recently made a voluntary contribution of 100,000 euros to the Agency’s enhanced monitoring and verification efforts in Iran in support of the Joint Plan of Action. To date, Sweden has also contributed 550,000 euros to the crucial IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative.

Nuclear security needs to be promoted both at home and abroad. Since the early 1990s, Sweden has contributed to a number of joint efforts to strengthen nuclear security and promote nuclear non-proliferation in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. In 2013, we allocated more than 5 million euros to projects in these countries. We are also pleased to be among those states that have contributed to nuclear security by transferring fissile material for secure disposal.

Sweden has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and intends to ratify the Convention later this year.

A working paper on Safeguards, nuclear security, peaceful uses, export controls and the CTBT has been presented to this conference by Sweden and others in the Vienna Group of Ten.
Mr Chairman,

It is all too clear that the use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic and enduring consequences, for humans, animals and plants worldwide. As long as these weapons are retained and spread to new countries and actors, the risk remains that they one day will be used. The solution is self-evident: a world without nuclear weapons.

But however much we may wish to make short-cuts on that route, there are none. The road ahead will be cumbersome.

Countries that possess nuclear weapons will need to come to the conclusion that national, regional and international security will be better served without nuclear weapons. Non-nuclear weapon states will need to work with the nuclear powers to help them achieve this. And all countries need to strengthen their non-proliferation commitments. New constructive approaches are needed, stronger engagement by all nations and a ceaseless commitment to the end goal.

Thank you.