I am taking the floor on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam.

Thank you, Madam President for your and the entire bureau’s hard work to try to achieve an outcome for this Review Conference.

We entered the conference in a constructive spirit and based on a strong position backed not by only evidence on the consequences and risks of nuclear weapons gathered over this review cycle but also by an overwhelming majority of 159 countries. We wanted to enter into negotiations and try to deliver real and credible progress towards a world without nuclear weapons based on a heightened sense of urgency that we all share. We regarded it as our responsibility to present this compelling evidence to this conference, as it should be at the centre of all deliberations, obligations and commitments with regard to nuclear disarmament. We strived for a result that would not only be acceptable to all but that would actually advance the objectives of the treaty and strengthen the treaty itself. The collective membership of the treaty unfortunately did not achieve these objectives at this review conference.

We remain committed to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime established by the NPT. We will continue to fulfil and implement all our obligations and commitments contained in the treaty and established by the review process.

Madam President,

At this Conference, we have witnessed a clear shifting of the parameters, the focus, the tone and the balance of the discussion and the engagement of all countries of the treaty on nuclear weapons. Non-nuclear weapon states are today more empowered to demand their security concerns be taken in consideration on an equal basis.

Madam President,

It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances. The only absolute guarantee
against the threat posed by nuclear weapons is their prohibition and their total elimination. Although the nuclear weapon states bear the ultimate responsibility to completely eliminate their nuclear arsenals, it is a shared responsibility of all states to prevent the humanitarian impact and effects related to these weapons of mass destruction.

The exchanges of views that we have witnessed during this review cycle demonstrate that there is a wide divide that presents itself in many fundamental aspects of what nuclear disarmament should mean. There is a reality gap, a credibility gap, a confidence gap and a moral gap.

After the discussions of the past weeks, we are now even more concerned about the existence of nuclear weapons and the apparent attempts to brush aside the facts, impact and risks of nuclear weapons. Even the document before us shows the urgency to act upon the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, but then falls dramatically short of making credible progress on filling the legal gap in what should have been the forward-looking part.

Madam President,

We call on all states parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing obligations under Article VI, and to this end, to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and we pledge to cooperate to achieve this goal.

We pledge to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, international organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements, parliamentarians and civil society, in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks.

Madame President, the discussions of the past weeks, the fact that credible progress could not be achieved and the humanitarian imperative only underscore that we must continue with urgency in our efforts.

Thank you.