Madam President,

Let me thank you and the wider team - the Chairmen of the Main Committees and subsidiary bodies and of course the Secretariat – for all your efforts over the last four weeks to guide us to a consensual outcome.

We have worked hard during this Review Conference to find consensus. We always knew that it would be challenging and are disappointed that we were ultimately unable to join consensus on the outcome document.

However, the lack of a consensus outcome or final document neither undermines the Treaty nor changes States' obligations under it. Nor does it lessen the need for compliance with the NPT. I would like to reaffirm the United Kingdom’s commitment to the Treaty and to fulfilling our NPT obligations, including under Article VI. This commitment is undiminished.

The Non Proliferation Treaty is vitally important for the United Kingdom and for the international community as a whole. The NPT has played an unparalleled role in curtailing the nuclear arms race and it continues to play a role in keeping the world safe.

We remain committed to strengthening each of the NPT’s mutually reinforcing pillars – disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
These are complementary goals and should be pursued together, systematically and with equal determination across all three pillars by all States Parties. The consensus action plan for the 2010 RevCon was unprecedented and a result of the strengthened review process adopted in 1995. We support the fullest implementation of all action plan recommendations and we call on all States Parties to continue working towards that end.

We continue to believe that an incremental, step-by-step approach is the only practical option for making progress towards nuclear disarmament, while upholding global strategic security and stability. This goal is what motivates our concerted efforts to pursue practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

We stress that addressing further prospects for nuclear disarmament would require taking into account all factors that could affect global strategic stability. We also stress the importance of engaging in frank and constructive dialogue to that end, and confirm our readiness to do so.

We will continue to work to enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence through P5 dialogue and action, building on the innovations of the most recent P5 conference in London.

I should note in particular that we are disappointed that we were not able to find common ground on how to make progress on the Middle East zone. This issue, and this issue alone, was the stumbling block for us. The United Kingdom was ready to meet the clear desire by this Review Conference to convene a conference as soon as possible. But as we have stated clearly throughout the last month, we were only willing to do so if we were
convinced that preparations would lead to a meaningful conference on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by all states of the region.

We do not believe that the text as presented passed this requirement. Nonetheless, we remain committed to the 1995 resolution and to the steps agreed in 2010, and if there is the willingness of regional states to find a way through, the United Kingdom stands ready to support it.

Thank you Madam Chair.