Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to express its recognition for your appointment to chair this Committee. We are convinced that your experience and trajectory will contribute to the successful development of the work of this forum. You can count with the full support of my delegation.

Mexico is a firm promoter and convinced defender of the inalienable right of all States Parties to the NPT to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technologies. Throughout their implementation, these technologies have demonstrated their utility and positive impact in the socioeconomic development of the State Parties and their relevance to confront recent and future challenges of the international community, as those identified by the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

This NPT Review Conference is the most relevant international forum to discuss and deliberate about this positive impact and its necessary balanced relationship with the other two pillars that underpin the international regime established by the NPT. We meet here, among other reasons, to review the results obtained during the last five years in the implementation of Articles IV and V of the NPT and, in particular, of the compliance of the Action Plan 2010. We are encouraged by the fact that States Parties to the Treaty have made important achievements regarding the implementation of the promotion of the peaceful, safe and secure uses of nuclear energy. We reiterate that those achievements should be reflected, in the same way, in matters related nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico has been an important actor and has greatly contributed in order for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to have a greater benefit for the international
community. In this sense, we support and promote the international framework designed for this purpose. Mexico considers that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays and should continue playing a central role in the promotion of technical cooperation, capacity building and transfer of technologies in order to improve the access to the peaceful and secure use of nuclear energy, particularly in developing states.

We need to underline the fact that this right has to be accompanied by the full compliance of the international commitments regarding safeguards and nuclear security and safety, as well as by an attitude of transparency that has to prevail in order to assure that the benefits of the atom are reserved for the good of humanity and do not contribute to its annihilation.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico is a responsible global actor that complies with its obligations and commitments acquired by the NPT as a Non Nuclear Weapon State. On March 29th 2014, Mexico signed the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, which was then ratified and entered into force on March 4th 2011. This decision of the Government of Mexico is a great contribution to the strengthening of the NPT regime and its safeguards system, as well as an example of the commitment of Mexico with the nonproliferation regime, in accordance with Action 29 of the 2010 Action Plan.

It is important to note that Mexico promotes, in the framework of the NPT, as member of the NAC and of the NPDI groups, proposals for the possibility that Nuclear Weapon States acquire more verification and safeguards commitments with the IAEA, since, until now, the IAEA does not verify nuclear military facilities in none of the nuclear weapons states, and this creates an asymmetry that goes in detriment of the NPT.

In compliance with the obligation of assuring that the nuclear material exports do not contribute, directly or indirectly, to the fabrication of nuclear weapons and other explosive nuclear devices, and with Action 35 and 36 of the Plan of Action, Mexico joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Regarding the exports control process, Mexico created a exports Control Committee which determines the special materials of exports by considering their use and final destination.

Mexico continuously contributes and supports the Technical Cooperation Program of IAEA on nuclear applications and science in the fields of energy, public health, agriculture, food security, water resources and combat of climate change, recognizing thus its important impact in the economy and society of the State parties.

Mexico fully complies with its contributions to the budget of the IAEA and its Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) and contributes to the technical cooperation programs,
seminars and conferences in the different areas of the nuclear applications, to which experts of the Latin American Region and other regions participate. During 2014, for example, Mexico has organized, together with the IAEA, different technical meetings, courses and regional workshops in important areas of nuclear applications such as food, agriculture and public health, which have a significant impact in the cooperation among Latin American States. Among the most recent ones, it organized a regional coordination meeting on the commercial application of the food treatment by irradiation with electron beams and x-rays; a regional capacity building course on the improvement of the avocado trough “in vitro” mutagenesis and a regional capacity building course for physicians and experts on the appropriate use of diagnostic techniques and therapies with radionuclides in tumors and good differentiated thyroid cancer in youth and juvenile population.

In the same manner, in conjunction with the IAEA, Mexico provides training courses and receives visits from nuclear experts of different regions. A diversity of experts and Mexican professionals linked with the different applications of nuclear safety actively and continuously participate in events and assistance and orientation committees, as well as in the design of guidelines, norms and good practices in the areas of nuclear power, nuclear applications, and nuclear security. Additionally, Mexico is a promoter of regional cooperation through its active participation in the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), which Mexico will chair in 2016.

Convinced that the peaceful use of nuclear energy cannot be separated from a safe and secure use, Mexico also actively participates in the activities and discussions of the IAEA regarding nuclear safety and security. Regarding nuclear security, Mexico closely collaborates with the IAEA and applies the Nuclear Security Plan 2014-2017 as well as the different guidelines and recommendations of the Agency. It also collaborates with the Agency in the elaboration of the Nuclear Security Series and participates in the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC). It applies the Code of Conduct of the IAEA related to safety and security of radioactive sources and the IAEA Guidelines for the Export and Import of such sources. Mexico has received missions of the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) and from the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) in all its nuclear facilities. Mexico ratified the 2007 the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and, during the cycle of this NPT Review Conference, the Amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) (2012), which we hope will enter into force soon.
Additionally, Mexico concluded in 2012 the conversion of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) to a Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for the operation of the nuclear research reactor "Triga mark III". Also, with the support of the IAEA, during 2013, Mexico established a laboratory of nuclear forensics in the National Institute for Nuclear Research (ININ) in which research and capacitation of experts of different institutions of the Mexican Government is being carried on.

Mexico actively participates in other international mechanism in charge of promoting nuclear security, such as the Global Initiative to Fight Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), whose 8th Plenary Meeting took place in Mexico City in 2013, and the Global Partnership against the Dissemination of Weapons of Mass Destruction (GP). Mexico has participated in the three Nuclear Security Summits that have been organized until now and actively participates in the preparatory process of the Summit to be held in Washington in 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding nuclear safety, Mexico applies the Standards and Recommendations of the IAEA in all its nuclear activities and actively participates in the expert groups of the Commission on Safety Norms (CSS). It also applies the Plan of Action of the IAEA adopted in 2011 and organizes and is part of different technical and regional meetings on preparation and response to nuclear accidents, nuclear security and radiology, and the transport and nuclear waste.

Additionally, Mexico has received assignments of the Operational Safety Review Teams (OSART), of the Peer Review Services of Long Term Operation and Ageing Management of Nuclear Power Plants (SALTO) and from the Design and Safety Assessment Review Service (DSARS); all within the framework of activities of the IAEA. Mexico is part of the most important nuclear safety agreements, such as the Convention on Assistance in case of nuclear accident or radiological emergency and participates in its “ConvEx” exercises in the framework of the IAEA.

Mexico also actively participates in the work of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CSN) and in its review and implementation mechanisms, such as the Review Conference and the periodic elaboration and presentation of national peer review reports. It also recognizes the importance of the Diplomatic Conference celebrated last February, during which the Vienna Declaration of Vienna, containing principles and recommendations to strengthen the safety regarding prevention of nuclear accidents and mitigation of possible radionuclide emissions was adopted. In the region, Mexico is an active promoter of the work and cooperation programs of the Ibero-American Forum
of Radiation and Nuclear Safety Regulatory Agencies (FORO), which Mexico chaired during 2013.

Mr Chairman,:

Article X of the NPT establishes that each State Party has the right to withdraw from the Treaty under certain circumstances and according to procedures established by this Article.

Mexico considers that the discussion on the Article X should be focused on the principles of International Law which cover treaties, among these, those established in the Vienna Convention of 1969 on the Law of Treaties. Thus, Mexico is of the view that the analysis and discussions on Article X are fundamentally juridical. For this reason we encourage all State Parties to invite legal experts to analyze this issue methodically and according to the relevant principles of International Law. We should have in mind that in 1993, a set of events created confusion and juridical disagreements on the effectiveness of the withdrawal by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Discussions should thus be conducted with responsibility and for this purpose we suggest that they take place among juridical experts.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico considers that this NPT Review Conference provides us with the ideal opportunity to weigh progress and design critical routs in order to continue going forward in the implementation and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this field, the countries that are Parties to the Treaty have to continue making efforts in order to improve the accessibility of nuclear sciences and technologies, to encourage capacity building, to boost technology transfer, and to develop even more the international cooperation networks.

The NPT regime enables State Parties to exercise our right to peacefully, securely and constructively use the atom. Let’s exercise this right responsibly and let’s fully comply with the commitments that involve a real and sustainable peaceful use of nuclear technology by all States for the benefit of humanity. Let’s contribute for this Review Conference to mark a milestone in this sense

Thank you very much Mr. Chair.