Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for taking on this important role, and be assured of my delegation’s full support as you seek to guide this body’s deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

You asked us to address the topic of “disarmament of nuclear weapons” in a forward looking manner. I would preface my remarks here today by emphasizing that underpinning all of our efforts in this area, stretching back decades, has been our clear understanding and recognition of the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. But the issue is not whether nuclear weapons are a security issue or a humanitarian issue – they are both. Furthermore, we remain convinced that the practical step-by-step path we are following remains the only realistic route to a world without nuclear weapons. I would underline that “step-by-step” does not mean one step at a time. It means we pursue all available avenues, with steps building on and creating opportunities for others, all in the context of enhancing international stability, peace, and security.

In proceeding with our discussion today, I would like to draw the attention of colleagues to Working Paper 44, which contains recommendations both with regard to the review of Article VI implementation and to further advancing Article VI implementation going forward, particularly with reference to areas where States Parties can build on the 2010 Action Plan.

Specifically, as regards Principles and Objectives, and Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 we believe the Conference should:

- Welcome the continuing reduction of nuclear weapons, and call for further efforts by all Parties towards nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty.
• Welcome the ongoing and successful implementation of the New START Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, and continue to encourage further negotiations on reductions in all categories of nuclear weapons – strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed – recalling the U.S. offer to pursue further nuclear force reductions in negotiation with Russia.

• Reaffirm the call on all nuclear-weapon states (NWS) to undertake concrete disarmament efforts; welcome their affirmation to pursue further progressive and practical steps to reduce nuclear weapons, to include reductions of all types of nuclear weapons.

• Recognize efforts undertaken by the NWS to report on nuclear reductions and their various undertakings in the sphere of nuclear reductions and disarmament, and call for continued reporting in this regard.

• Call upon Parties to work together to build the conditions for peace and security necessary to facilitate even more progress on nuclear disarmament.

• Affirm that it is in the interest of all nations that the nearly 70-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

• Welcome the commitment to deepen arms control and strategic stability interaction and dialogue through the P5 process or other means.

• Welcome steps taken and call for further steps to build confidence and lower the possibility of any potential use of nuclear weapons, including accidental use, by giving the highest priority to ensuring the safety and security of their nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

On transparency, verification, and irreversibility, and with reference to Actions 2, 5, 19, 20, 21, 22, we believe the Review Conference should:

• Welcome the reports submitted by the NWS in a common framework, and encourage continued reporting in this regard, to include reporting by all NPT Parties.
• Welcome public declarations by some NWS of their respective total numbers of nuclear weapons, and also reports on progress made towards dismantling retired nuclear weapons, and encourage further efforts in this regard.

• Encourage those nuclear-weapons states that have not publicly declared their total number of nuclear weapons or reported on progress toward dismantling retired nuclear weapons to take such steps.

• Welcome the efforts of the NWS to further enhance transparency, including their most recent conference in London and the release of the P5 Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms, and encourage the NWS to build on and expand their current efforts to further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence as providing a necessary foundation for further progress on disarmament and nonproliferation, including through their regular meetings at policy and expert levels.

• Recognize the contribution toward Article VI goals through work being done on nuclear disarmament verification, including through bilateral work between the United States and the UK, between the UK and Norway, and the newly launched International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, which brings together NWS and NNWS to develop solutions to verification challenges, and encourage further efforts in this regard.

• Promote initiatives in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education, including continued efforts to educate the next generation of policy and technical specialists, the use of new information and communications technology, as well as collaboration among governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector.

Thank you.