Mr. Chairman,

The Russian delegation has asked for the floor to respond to the accusations made in the statements of Ukraine and other countries of violating the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and of nearly undermining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They have made claims that Russia by its actions had allegedly questioned the reliability of so called negative security assurances to non-nuclear States.

Let us sort out what the above-mentioned Memorandum and the concept of negative assurances actually have in common. The answer is obvious: they set forth the obligation not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. Russia has fully complied with this obligation undertaken on December 5, 1994. It could not have been otherwise, for sure. Thus, the implementation of the NPT related provisions of the Memorandum has confirmed the viability of negative assurances even in a critical situation, in spite of the fact that the Memorandum, as opposed to conventional negative assurances, is a political rather than legally binding instrument.

The question is why our opponents are unscrupulously speculating on this issue; what is more, they are doing it here at the NPT Review Conference that supposedly has gathered professionals capable of separating propaganda from real non-proliferation obligations. We would like to call on the delegations of the United States, Canada, Germany, Poland, and Estonia to take full account of their
responsibility for the fate of the NPT and cease to undermine the non-proliferation regime for timeserving political reasons.

Now a few words about other obligations under the Memorandum that have no relation to the NPT but have to be mentioned due to the allegations made. In that document, we committed to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine. Russia has fully complied with this provision. Neither before nor when the population of the Crimea and Sevastopol made crucial decisions on the peninsula status, not a single shot was fired. Almost one hundred percent of the local population through the free expression of their will fulfilled the right to self-determination, hence the Crimea returned home, to Russia.

As for unceasing attempts to assign to Russia a military intervention in the South East of Ukraine, the authors of these conjectures have not so far provided any compelling evidence.

It would be appropriate to underscore that neither under the Budapest Memorandum nor under any other instruments Russia made commitments to force a part of Ukraine to remain in this State against the will of the local population. Thus, Ukraine lost its territorial integrity as a result of complex internal processes, whereas Russia and its obligations under the Budapest Memorandum have nothing to do with this situation.

One last remark. According to Ukraine’s statement at our Conference, the policy of this State as regards non-proliferation is based on the claims to exclusiveness. The head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry actually called upon the NPT States Parties to consider his country a “model” and an “example to follow”.

It is exactly Ukrainian non-proliferation policy under the new government that we would not recommend anyone to take after. Not individual politicians alone, but senior officials in Ukraine are making rather alarming statements. In particular, former acting President of Ukraine and now Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Alexander Turchynov less than a month ago publicly announced that the Ukrainian authorities were allegedly preparing to
implement some secret military and technical programs aimed at creating either a so-called "dirty bomb", or nuclear weapons. As the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already commented, usually it is terrorist groupings of all sorts that announce such plans. Therefore, there is every reason to raise the question of the inclusion in the draft final document of this Conference a warning addressed to the Ukrainian authorities regarding the inadmissibility of reckless and very pernicious steps that would turn Ukraine into a rogue State.

Thank you.