Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Pham Thi Kim Anh
Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations
at the United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding Instrument to prohibit Nuclear Weapons, leading towards their total elimination
New York, March 2017

Madam President,

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I wish to echo deep appreciations to you for your dedicated efforts to move the process of negotiating a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons forward.

It is crystal clear that our objective is to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons, which remains the universal objective of taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations and in our view, the preamble of a new instrument should include these following points:

First, the deep concern about the threat to humanity posed by the existence of nuclear weapons and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any nuclear detonation compels states to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control.

Second, the NPT remains a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and such a new instrument would not only be complementary to and reinforce the NPT but also serve as a practical and achievable step towards filling a legal gap in the international legal framework pertaining to the legality of nuclear weapons.

Third, it is necessary to recall the fundamental principles of respect for each other’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other’s international affairs; non-use or threat of force; settlement of disputes by peaceful means; mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law.

Last but not least, the benefits of peaceful application of nuclear technology should be available for peaceful purposes to all parties to a new instrument.

Madam President, my delegation looks forward to working with you and all delegations towards the successful conclusion of an effective legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination.

I thank you.