Mr Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

History has clearly demonstrated that the use and testing of nuclear weapons have catastrophic and long-term humanitarian consequences due to the indiscriminate nature and the extremely destructive capability of nuclear weapons. The use and the testing of nuclear weapons have the potential to affect every aspect of human life, including health, the environment, food, agriculture, the global economy and international security. The ramifications of the use of nuclear weapons, whether by design or by accident, are so profound and far-reaching that no individual state can adequately deal with them on its own. Stronger international awareness and cooperation to prevent its use and its testing is therefore critical. It is encouraging to observe the growing interest and momentum generated on this topic over the past few years. This Conference in Vienna contributes to strengthening our understanding of the multi-faceted aspects of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We welcome the fact that a few nuclear weapons states and nuclear weapons possessing states are engaged in these discussions. We hope that other states possessing nuclear weapons will participate in future discussions on such an important issue.

2 Singapore is firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or the NPT, and its core principles. We will continue to work with
the international community to support the advancement of global nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the right of sovereign states to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, including energy, in a safe, secure and safeguarded manner. We fully recognise that a world without nuclear weapons remains a long term aspiration. Nevertheless, we must start somewhere and every step counts. As we work towards the 2015 NPT Review Conference, nuclear weapons states can and must do more to reassure non-nuclear weapons states that they remain committed to fulfilling their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty. We also hope that those outside the NPT framework will join or rejoin the Treaty in order to achieve the goal of the universalisation of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The world cannot afford the consequences if nuclear weapons are ever used again.

3 Thank you, Mr Chairman.