Mr. President,

Slovakia fully associates with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Since this the first time delegation takes the floor under your presidency, let me reaffirm a commitment of my country and reiterate a readiness of this delegation to engage in an endeavor that may open up again the potential of the CD as the single multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament.

At the outset, I would like to commend all your predecessors in this year CD session for their determination to find a consensus on a Programme of Work, which would allow the CD to start its substantial work and to fulfill its mandate.

We regret that this year the Conference on Disarmament has once again failed to meet its obligation to establish a Programme of Work and to commence its negotiations. Despite efforts by almost all CD members, we have not been able to implement specific tasks given to the CD. The frustration and stagnation in this forum continues.

We are disappointed that individual ambitions prevail over global security interests thus preventing the international community from advancing on issues that would strengthen security for all.

It is only natural that national security interests can be best defended during the negotiations. This is an appropriate place and time where the consensus should be sought.

Mr. President,

Ongoing stalemate in the Conference and stagnation in strengthening and moving forward norms on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation endangers global security
environment and especially the disarmament landscape. We believe that the CD is central to disarmament negotiations and a key element of the whole disarmament machinery. It is so important that we cannot afford its further inactivity and its deadlock to continue. It has serious consequences for the Conference in terms of its credibility and relevance to address all current security needs.

We understand that there are different priorities for the negotiations in the CD. In order to overcome existing differences, we need to show increased flexibility, which would be reflected in trust and confidence and will help us to bridge our views. We are convinced that this Conference is still the best place to produce global, well-founded and viable instruments. The concept of the Conference offers a potential to find negotiated global solutions.

All issues on our agenda deserve careful consideration. There may be a question whether any issue or what issue is ripe for negotiations. But we would find an answer to it only if we deal with an issue. Only if we start, we can find out how far we can reach. So we need to commence dealing with issues on our agenda as soon as possible. We are of the view that starting negotiations on one issue will not mean the neglect of the others.

Mr. President,

Slovakia continues to support immediate commencement of the negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. We believe that it is an indispensable and next practical step towards achieving our final goal, a world free of nuclear weapons.

We share views that such a treaty would offer a unique opportunity to create a non-discriminatory regime with equal obligations for both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states.

A fissile material treaty would clearly reinforce the global non-proliferation regime based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and at the same time complement the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It would be part of the architecture of a nuclear weapon free world. We believe that such a treaty would be well placed in a comprehensive framework of mutually reinforcing instruments.

Slovakia believes that the scope of the treaty will be determined by definitions embodied in the treaty. It must be broad enough to ensure that all fissile material relevant to nuclear weapons purposes is captured under its provisions.

We should work towards maximizing the non-proliferation and disarmament value of this instrument.

I thank you, Mr. President.