Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee. The Brazilian delegation reaffirms its full confidence in your leadership. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Ms. Angela Kane for her opening remarks and to commend her on the work carried out as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Brazil fully associates itself with the statements delivered by Mexico on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) and by Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Mr. Chairman,

As we approach the end of another review cycle of the NPT, it is paramount to reflect on the achievements and challenges of these five years and make an effort to identify and address the underlying causes and assumptions that hindered the full implementation of the NPT, particularly of Article VI, as well as the complete fulfillment of the objectives agreed in 2010. It is Brazil's longstanding position that the implementation of the NPT has suffered from a fundamental imbalance. While we have fared well on the non-proliferation objectives, we cannot say the same about the commitments on disarmament. It is our view that the "compliance deficit" by the nuclear-weapon States in this regard harms the integrity of the NPT regime and jeopardizes the success achieved on the non-proliferation area. In order to have a
successful 2015 Review Conference, unequivocal and concrete commitments by the nuclear-weapon States to move forward with nuclear disarmament are needed.

While we welcome the agreements reached on the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference regarding the rules of procedure, provisional agenda and the allocation of items to the main committees, we were disappointed with the failure to agree on a consensual report. A meaningful Review Conference will require stronger political commitment by all State Parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, and must not only reaffirm the nuclear disarmament related commitments agreed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, but also build upon them, proposing new concrete objectives for the next five years.

In this context, Brazil welcomes the first celebration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September, as established by UNGA Resolution 68/32. We are encouraged by the strong support showed in favor of the total elimination of nuclear weapons by both governments and civil society throughout the world. At the ministerial meeting held here in New York to celebrate it, Brazil expressed the reasons why we are deeply convinced that a global, multilateral push for nuclear disarmament is urgently needed.

As the Oslo and Nayarit Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons emphasized, nuclear weapons have long-lasting, devastating, indiscriminate effects, affecting civilians foremost, which makes them incompatible with international law and international humanitarian law. Their elimination is, therefore, an ethical imperative as well as a legal obligation. Brazil commends the Government of Austria for deciding to host a third Conference on the issue and urges the nuclear-weapon States to actively take part in it. As owners of nuclear arsenals, they bear a special responsibility in avoiding the possibility of a nuclear explosion and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe.

Beyond the fears instilled by the possibility of a detonation, the mere existence of nuclear weapons has an impact on peoples' lives. The severe financial resources diverted to the maintenance and modernization of nuclear arsenals could, if invested elsewhere, provide significant betterment of living conditions worldwide. Even amidst the global financial crisis and in a context of dwindling resources to alleviate poverty and promote development, it is estimated that the nuclear-weapon States spend around 100 billion dollars a year to maintain their arsenals. This is a disturbing sign of how global priorities are being set.

Furthermore, the continued existence of nuclear weapons and the threat to mankind they represent increase tensions in all regions of the world, foster suspicion and hinder cooperation between States. Nuclear weapons and doctrines of nuclear deterrence make the world more dangerous and more unstable, unintentionally inviting proliferation, for every State in the world may likewise argue its security can only be assured by the possession of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is thus the only credible way to consolidate the non-proliferation regime.

As the 2015 Review Conference approaches, the international community has an opportunity to ask how a concrete roadmap to nuclear disarmament would look like and in what timeframe it could be implemented. While we welcome bilateral agreements aimed at reducing the number of certain types of weapons, we must recall that these initiatives do not lead to permanent disarmament, which can only be achieved through irreversible, transparent and verifiable measures.

In this regard, we would like to call your attention to the working paper submitted by the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference which was designed to kick-start the debate on the way forward towards a clear, legally binding and multilateral commitment, on the part of all States, to the goal of nuclear disarmament, with clearly defined benchmarks and mutually agreed timelines.
For Brazil, this commitment shall lead to the development of a comprehensive set of prohibitions that include banning the development, production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, testing, use and transfer of such weapons and providing for their complete elimination.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country unequivocally committed to the integrity of the NPT and to the credibility of the review mechanism, we cannot but also voice our frustration with the failure, so far, to convene a Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East as provided for by the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Brazil believes that the successful convening of the Conference represents an essential part of the NPT and of the current review cycle. We believe the Conference can be a useful tool in fostering greater trust and confidence among States of the region.

The Middle East has seen some positive developments during the last year: Syria has acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention and is undertaking the destruction of its chemical arsenal. At the same time, unprecedented negotiations were launched on the Iranian nuclear program, which may represent a unique window of opportunity to resolve the issue. These endeavors provide a positive context for the convening of the Conference, which must be seized. We hope the informal consultations being held will lead, as soon as possible, to the successful convening of the Conference under the mandate granted by the 2010 Action Plan and with the participation of all countries in the region.

As a member of the treaty on the establishment of the first denuclearized zone in a densely populated area of the planet, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Brazil is ready to continue contributing to efforts leading to the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones around the world.

Brazil also takes pride in having developed, together with Argentina, a successful model of regional cooperation and confidence-building represented by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC). We believe that the Agency could serve as a source of inspiration for our partners in the Middle East and elsewhere that strive for the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons.

As a demonstration of our commitment to promote nuclear-weapons-free-zones and to the ultimate goal of freeing the world of those weapons, Brazil will table, once again at this session, together with New Zealand, the draft resolution “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil attaches the utmost importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We reiterate therefore the need to overcome the stalemate that, for the past eighteen years, has been preventing it from carrying out substantive activities.

Complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament must remain a global priority and this should be reflected in concrete, decisive steps towards it, with the urgent launching of negotiations on a comprehensive legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons. Brazil believes that these negotiations must take place within the existing multilateral system, either at the Conference on Disarmament or, if this is not viable, at the United Nations General Assembly.

Launching multilateral negotiations on a nuclear disarmament convention would make the treatment of interim measures in the CD, such as a Fissile Material Treaty or a Negative Assurances Treaty, unnecessary. We would be left with the issue of negotiating a treaty on the Placement of Arms in Outer Space. We welcome, in this regard, the submission by Russia and China of a revised proposal of a draft
"Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects", which is an excellent basis to start discussions on that matter.

Discussions on the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space have shown that the use of outer space for military purposes is firmly underway. As a developing country with a peaceful space program, Brazil attaches high priority to the objective of preserving outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. In this sense, I would like to report that Brazil is joining other delegations in presenting a draft resolution titled "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space".

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil deeply regrets that, almost two decades after the conclusion of negotiations on the CTBT, there are still no prospects for its entry into force, which only proves the lack of efficacy of the so-called "step by step" approach advocated by the nuclear-weapon States and States protected by their nuclear umbrella.

While negotiations on a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament do not begin, Brazil would like to urge once again all countries that have not acceded to the CTBT, in particular Annex II countries, to do so as a matter of urgency. Also, it is with concern that we continue to learn of some States’ activities aimed at the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons through other means, notably non-explosive experiments. In our view, such activities are contrary to the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), its spirit, if not the letter, and strongly undermine its desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to reiterate once again Brazil's firm commitment to the effective and efficient implementation of the IAEA safeguards system. The authority, credibility and integrity of this system are essential to sustain the achievement of our shared objective of nuclear non-proliferation, which, as I noted, is a success story of the NPT.

During the past year, two issues stood out in the IAEA safeguards agenda: the development of the so-called "State-level concept" (SLC) for the application of safeguards and the unfolding of negotiations aimed at resolving concerns related to Iran's nuclear program.

Regarding the SLC, Brazil wishes to commend the IAEA Secretariat for the way it has conducted the preparation of the Supplementary Document requested by the IAEA General Conference – a very important step in the development of the concept. An unprecedented process of consultations and technical meetings between the Secretariat and Member States took place this year, thereby introducing a new and encouraging dynamic in how safeguards issues are dealt with within the Agency. The discussions have in fact given room for greater accountability and transparency on the part of the Secretariat, and for closer involvement of Member States in the development of proposed new policies.

Brazil believes that this approach to safeguards must be continued and improved upon, because it is consistent with the proper statutory roles and responsibilities of the political organs of the IAEA, and therefore will strengthen the authority, credibility and integrity of the Agency.

As to the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, I wish to stress what Brazil has reiterated time and again: there is no alternative to a political, negotiated solution to the issue. We should all strive to preserve the positive atmosphere stemming from November last year, which allowed for the agreements reached both with the IAEA and the P5+1. In light of the importance of the negotiations that are expected to take place over the next weeks, we reiterate our call on all parties to remain
engaged towards a comprehensive, long-term solution to the issue and the normalization of the application of the IAEA’s safeguards in Iran.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our view that the international community must be permanently committed to eliminating risks and threats arising from any possible destructive use of nuclear energy. This includes preventing terrorists or other non-authorized actors from gaining access to nuclear devices, materials and facilities.

As Brazil stressed in the Nuclear Security Summit that took place earlier this year in the Netherlands, we must not forget that it is not civilian nuclear facilities, but atomic bombs that pose the greatest security risk to our societies. Today, as we know, while nuclear facilities and materials of the non-nuclear-weapon States are under intense scrutiny, stockpiles of weapons-grade nuclear material in nuclear-weapon States (which amount to 98% of Highly Enriched Uranium and 86% of separated Plutonium currently existing) are exempt from multilateral control mechanisms. The most effective way to reduce the risk that non-state actors make use of nuclear energy for destructive purposes is the total elimination of all nuclear arsenals.

These concerns led Brazil and 14 other countries to submit, during the Nuclear Security Summit, a statement titled "In larger security: a comprehensive approach to nuclear security". Underpinning this statement is the belief that a world that accepts nuclear weapons will always be insecure. We hope that more delegations come to share this belief and promote this broader approach to nuclear security as we discuss the issue in the IAEA and other fora in the coming months and years.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil has been closely following progress in the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and welcomed the announcement that all Category 1 chemicals declared by Syria have now been verified as destroyed. Such a landmark achievement reinforces the OPCW as an exemplary approach to the continuous effort of the international community to promote a world free of weapons of mass destruction. As we are on the verge of attaining the complete elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons program, we would like to recognize the extremely difficult circumstances under which the UN-OPCW Joint Mission performed its mandate in Syria.

We hope that these positive developments may contribute to the universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention, especially in the Middle East. Brazil is also deeply concerned with the possibility that toxic chemicals, namely chlorine gas, have been used as weapons against the Syrian people. Such deplorable action, regardless of who its perpetrator may be, reminds us that the international community must uphold a unified position in order to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in that country. It was this unity that provided one of the few positive developments in the Syrian crisis.

A strong supporter of a world free of biological weapons, Brazil considers that, forty year after its negotiation, the Biological Weapons Convention continues to be a fragile regime. Compared to the effective measures established by the CWC to verify compliance and deal with violations, the mechanisms at the disposal of the BWC are clearly insufficient to promote confidence and improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities.

Brazil believes that effective international action against biological threats needs to be universal, legally binding and non-discriminatory. We are therefore ready to resume negotiations on an effective and legally binding verification regime based on a Protocol to be negotiated by States Parties, aiming at universal implementation. My country also considers that State Parties should undertake all efforts to prevent actions and decisions within the BWC that would raise unnecessary obstacles to developing countries, especially in what regards scientific progress and transfer of technology.
Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the field of conventional arms, the international community has now marked a milestone. The ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty by the fiftieth State has started the 90 days countdown for its entry into force, which shall take place on the 24th of December. Brazil commends all 53 signatories of the Arms Trade Treaty for depositing their instruments of ratification.

The ratification process of the ATT in Brazil is underway and we expect the treaty to be considered by the newly elected legislature in the first semester of 2015. Brazil has been participating, as a signatory of the Treaty, in the preparatory process for the First Conference of State Parties. We hope that this process will help to establish well-functioning structures and governance procedures for the ATT. For now, we encourage all countries that have not yet signed the Treaty, especially great producers and exporters of conventional arms, to consider joining it as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

During this 69th UNGA, Brazil will continue to engage in and support initiatives that, while preserving the free flow of information and the right to privacy, are aimed at improving multilateral norms and principles regarding Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including on matters of governance. As many countries are developing offensive capacities in cyberspace as part of their military doctrines, there is a growing concern with the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and possible conflict escalations prompted by virtual attacks.

In this context, Brazil favors the discussion of legal standards for international peace and security concerns related to information and communication technologies. We therefore welcome the start of discussions within the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established by General Assembly Resolution 68/243.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, as a final remark, to reaffirm the commitment of the Brazilian delegation to the work of this First Committee, which is a body dedicated to free the world from threats to international peace and security associated with WMDs and other weapons. It is its responsibility to guide the work of the wider membership with a view to the full attainment of the Charter's objectives. For my country, this can only be achieved by promoting a world free of weapons of mass destruction and more cooperative and friendly ties among States, rather than competition and confrontation.

In dealing with the issues at stake in the Committee's agenda, Brazil will continue to strive for a multipolar and cooperative international order based on balanced, non-discriminatory and legally-binding obligations applicable to all. We are convinced that that is the only road that will lead to an international order that promotes peace, stability and well-being, a goal shared by all our countries.

I thank you.