Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of the full support of Montenegrin delegation in discharging your important duties.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the EU statement. In addition, I would like to stress certain points that are of particular importance to my country.

Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro is strongly committed to the objective of a world without nuclear weapons. We believe that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains the cornerstone for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We acknowledge that considerable reductions in nuclear arsenals, particularly by the United States and Russian Federation, have been made since the end of the Cold War. But we currently see the existence of around 17,000 nuclear weapons which leads us to conclude with concern that, more than 40 years after the entry into force of the NPT, a rather limited progress has been achieved in the field of nuclear disarmament. Moreover, the ongoing efforts to modernise and upgrade nuclear weapons do not go hand in hand with the letter and spirit of the NPT. With continued existence of nuclear weapons, the risk presented by their proliferation and the potential impact on the international peace and security is a constant concern that could never be fully eliminated. Furthermore, despite the preparations and tireless efforts by the Facilitator which we applaud, the
convening of the Conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction has not been possible so far.

All this points us to the necessity to place renewed focus and greater importance to the full implementation of the existing obligations and outcomes under the NPT auspices. Real and substantive progress in nuclear disarmament, on the path to total elimination, is long overdue. It is in this context, with a sense of urgency, that we must approach the NPT Review Conference next year, if we want to make it a success and preserve the relevance and credibility of the NPT structure for the international peace and security.

A modern and pragmatic approach, one that is not trapped in the past but that would instead be future-oriented as to try to bridge the existing differences and unite efforts of nuclear and non-nuclear countries, has to prevail. Sooner, rather than later, we have to come to the realization of the orientation towards our common, peaceful future, where nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction have no place.

We wish to acknowledge the campaign to increase awareness on the possible catastrophic humanitarian consequences that potential use of nuclear weapons presents for humanity. We welcome the holding of the meetings in Oslo and Nayarit and look forward to the opportunity to further discuss and gain better understanding of this issue at the Vienna conference later this year, as we prepare for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. We sincerely believe that this initiative can strengthen and not undermine the NPT. Similarly, we expect the Vienna conference only to stipulate and contribute to a successful outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) must continue to be our priority. Montenegro subscribed to the joint statement from last month’s CTBT ministerial meeting, calling for prompt entry into force. Another high priority remains the beginning of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT). We welcome the two meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts and hope the work of the Group can positively contribute to this aim.

Mr. Chairman,

Weapons of mass destruction other than nuclear weapons also present key challenge. With regard to Syria, the removal and subsequent destruction of the declared chemicals is an essential step forward towards the complete and irreversible dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. This was a major achievement of the international community. But work is not finished,
since the second report of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission found convincing evidence of the systematic and repeated use of a toxic chemical since last April. The use of chemical weapons is not permissible under any circumstances and Montenegro strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in Syria. My delegation emphasizes the importance of bringing the perpetrators of these horrific acts to justice.

Fully aware of the serious threat that proliferation of WMDs pose to the international peace and security, authorities in Montenegro, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and with participation of experts from Security Council 1540 Committee, have prepared and in June of this year submitted the National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council 1540 resolution, with an aim to ensure full and most effective compliance and implementation. This year Montenegro also submitted the national report on the implementation of resolution 1540, reaffirming our dedication to this subject.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased that so far 121 states have signed and more importantly 53 states have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, which allows the Treaty to enter into force before the year's end. Montenegro is honoured and proud to have deposited the instrument of ratification for the ATT on 18 August 2014, becoming the 44th country to do so. Our ratification is yet another illustration of firm commitment my country has had towards the ATT and promoting responsible arms trade throughout the world. From the beginning, Montenegro has been active supporter and advocate for ATT. We were among the first to sign the Treaty. Now that we are approaching the entry into force of the ATT, we expect that this instrument will be decisive in putting an end to illegal diversion and uncontrolled arms trade which fuels armed conflicts, thus making the real difference in lives, livelihoods and human rights of millions of people worldwide.

Montenegro will be devoted to the full and effective implementation of the ATT as well as to upholding the principles and standards enshrined by the Treaty on a global scale. Our efforts will continue in order to make sure that the Treaty truly becomes the universal one, with as broad and effective application as possible.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mexico for organizing the first round of informal consultations. We look forward to the second preparatory meeting to be held in Berlin in November, but also to the first Conference of States Parties to
the ATT in 2015, which Mexico has kindly offered to host, as it represents crucial development for the implementation of the Treaty following its entry into force.

I would like to express hope that the encouraging developments around the ATT will provide positive example and stimulus to regain much needed momentum for other global disarmament and non-proliferation actions.

We note with regret and share wide range frustration for the continuing stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament and UN Disarmament Commission, both of which have been unable to perform their roles for over a decade. Montenegro strongly supports ongoing efforts to break the deadlock in the CD and in UNDC, so that they would be in position to carry out substantive work as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

We must, to the best, use the opportunities presented to us so that significant strides can be achieved on our long path toward safer and more secure world. We need to galvanize our efforts and recommit ourselves to the principles of effective multilateralism, compromise and mutual trust in order to revitalize UN disarmament machinery and strengthen global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In this sense I would like to touch upon the opening intervention made by High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Angela Kane. Her message about “results-based” approach, both in disarmament and the regulation of armaments, has a lot of merit and demands our full attention and consideration going forward in order to make our work meaningful and tangible. Montenegro for its part is firmly dedicated to play an active role and constructively contribute to this end. Montenegrin delegation looks forward to engaging in issues that are on the agenda of the First Committee and is open for pragmatic cooperation in all fields.

So I would like to reiterate, distinguished Mr. Chairman, our support to you in bringing this session to its fruitful conclusion.

Thank you.