Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee. I am confident that your able leadership and diplomatic experience will lead the Committee towards a successful conclusion. I assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation and wish you success.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Threats and challenges are an integral part of our world. Among them, the threat posed by the continued existence of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons is paramount. These inhumane weapons are the means of mass and indiscriminate killing and destruction.

Tens of thousands of nuclear weapons are not just in store. They are associated with strategies and war plans which contemplate their use under certain circumstances. As long as the idea of achieving security with nuclear weapons forms the foundation of the military doctrines of a few States, such weapons would remain as an ever present threat to the whole mankind.

The spread of the nuclear weapons threat is contained by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). That is an achievement which must be protected. But the NPT is not premised upon only
one pillar. Commitment to the elimination of the source of threat is another pillar of the Treaty. It
was promised, at the time of the conclusion of the NPT, that threat of nuclear weapons,
particularly against non-nuclear nations would be removed in all its aspects, including through
the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Not only this threat has persisted until now, but also we
are witnessing the lack of progress, even at a slow pace, in delivering that promise as a result of
the continued non-compliance of nuclear-weapon States with their legal obligations under
Article VI of the NPT.

It is a matter of serious concern that there is no indication that the nuclear weapon States
are moving in the path of fulfillment of their obligation on nuclear disarmament. For the sake of
humanity, it is imperative to move beyond rhetoric and adopt a responsible policy. Saying
something and doing another thing is not a responsible policy for honoring the legal obligation
on nuclear disarmament. It is duplicity.

That is why an overwhelming majority of States that have already spoken during the
general debate in this room, rightly question the commitment of the nuclear weapon States to
nuclear disarmament. The international community has the right to be assured that the nightmare
that visited upon the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never befall any other community
again.

Non-compliance with nuclear disarmament obligation, if not stopped, would gradually
erode the trust in the NPT. Compliance with treaties and commitments in the field of
disarmament should not be subject to self-defined conditions. Otherwise, a truly global
consensus on the issue of compliance will not be forged. It is not acceptable to be a champion of
compliance just in words, and at the same time, be a defiant of compliance in action. The issue of
compliance with the nuclear disarmament obligation under Article VI of the NPT needs to be
addressed as a priority in the agenda of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Next spring, the 2015 NPT Review Conference provides a good opportunity to test
whether nuclear weapon States take their responsibility seriously in addressing the concerns of
the international community with respect to the threat arising from their nuclear arsenals.
Piecemeal approach to nuclear disarmament has already been tested with no result. We believe,
the most effective and practical way to achieve and sustain the abolition of nuclear weapons is to
negotiate a comprehensive, binding, irreversible, verifiable nuclear weapon convention. To date,
all achievements in eliminating whole categories of biological and chemical weapons have been
made possible through such a treaty approach. At the UNGA high-level meeting on nuclear
disarmament which was held in 2013, the Non-Aligned Movement's proposal to commence
negotiation on a comprehensive nuclear weapon convention in the Conference on Disarmament
 gained wide support.
The lack of resolve on the part of nuclear weapon States to systematically and progressively move towards the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons has impeded meaningful activity within the disarmament machinery with regard to nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament has not been able to conduct its negotiating mandate for the past eighteen years, because some nuclear weapon States block the adoption of a balanced program of work involving the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East has been an important objective and priority for the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as all other peace-loving nations in our region.

Given the fact that the existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the Israeli regime continues to pose a serious threat to the peace and security of the NPT States parties in the Middle East, the speedy establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East is all the more important. Everybody in the region is aware of the dangerous and violent nature of the Israeli regime and the pattern of conduct of its leaders. Aggression, occupation and committing genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity are integral characteristics of a regime which is armed with nuclear weapons. The racist leaders of Israel clearly demonstrated during recent aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza that they can easily abandon their sense of humanity and violate norms and commitments of international law and international humanitarian law. The leaders of this regime are alien to the norms and principles of international law including the principle of proportionality.

Israel continues to be the only impediment in way towards realizing a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. Due to Israel's refusal, the 2012 conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East did not convene. The prospect for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East can be enhanced when certain nuclear weapon States abandon their long-standing policy of exempting the regime of Israel from adhering to the NPT. One of the main areas of focus at the 2015 NPT Review Conference shall be the review of the status of implementation of the 1995 resolution and related measures contained in the follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review.

Mr. Chairman,

While fully adhering to its legal obligations under international law, Iran is committed to exercise its full nuclear rights, including enrichment, for peaceful purposes within the framework of the NPT. This policy is based on a long-term planning to meet the growing energy needs of the country.
Some have tried to create doubts regarding the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to nuclear non-proliferation. To prove them wrong, in the past 12 months, we have engaged in an earnest and serious negotiations to help building confidence regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. We believe that the difference over Iran's peaceful nuclear program could be only resolved through negotiations. And those who may think of any other way out are either making a serious mistake or have vested interest in furthering the schemes of the warmongers, who seek to create further difficulties for our region and beyond.

We are determined to continue negotiations with our interlocutors in the P5+1 in earnest and good faith, based on mutual respect and removal of concerns of both sides. It is a common view that a durable comprehensive agreement would be beneficial to all sides. A mutually agreed solution could be attainable if the other sides, like Iran, negotiate in good faith, and take into account the realities on the ground and avoid looking for impracticalities. A comprehensive deal would provide the other side with what they look for, namely, assurances that Iran's nuclear program remains exclusively peaceful through sustained transparency. A comprehensive and fair agreement will undoubtedly enhance the credibility and integrity of the NPT, which will amount to a major boost for the international non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Where there is a will, there is a way to overcome the challenges and move towards the established goals and priorities of the international community in the field of disarmament. We hope that our deliberations in this Committee will contribute to upholding internationally agreed norms and principles and to the advancement of our common objectives.

I thank you.