Mr. President, (Thank you for the floor.)

This, the first time that my delegation has spoken at this session, so I would like to begin by congratulating you and other members of the bureau on your election, and pledging our support to you and your efforts to successfully guide our work.

I would also like to express our support to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and add a few points that are important for Slovenia.

Mr. President,

As a staunch supporter of effective multilateralism, Slovenia believes that international organisations do serve their purpose in assisting member states to make this world a better place. Unfortunately, this is not always the case with the multilateral disarmament machinery. The disarmament machinery, particularly the Conference on Disarmament and Disarmament Commission, is failing to respond to the challenges of present time and is constantly underperforming.

Slovenia is particularly frustrated with the continuous impasse of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We regret that once again, the Conference did not succeed in commencing negotiations on international disarmament agreements, thus failing to fulfill its mandate. We continue to believe that the Conference should start negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty as soon as possible. We call upon CD member states to take the necessary decisions.

What we welcome in the CD this year is the appointment of the Ambassador of Albania in Geneva as the Friend of the CD President for enlargement. We regret that this has not been noted in the annual report of the Conference and in the relevant draft resolution.

Mr. President,

Slovenia continues to believe that the enlargement of the Conference on Disarmament is urgent. We are convinced that the Declaration of the Tenth Session of the General Assembly, which states that "all states have the right to participate in disarmament negotiations", remains valid.

This is why we continue to call upon the Conference to decide on enlargement as soon as possible. In our view, new members would not present stumbling blocks, but would rather enrich the work of the Conference and contribute new ideas for its proceedings.

Mr. President,

We should continue to seek ways to improve the existing disarmament machinery. Slovenia closely followed the work of the Open-Ended Working Group, which was established in 2012 to take forward multilateral negotiations and convened in Geneva in spring 2013. In our opinion, this was a useful exercise that could perhaps be repeated.

Thank you, Mr. President.