Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time Latvia takes the floor we would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and assure you of the full cooperation of the Latvian delegation. Latvia fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. I would like to add the following points in a national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

For Latvia the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime. While we support the bilateral and multilateral efforts that complement and advance the goals of the NPT, we are reluctant regarding the creation of parallel working formats, which may duplicate the work done in existing formats. While we understand the logic behind new proposals, there is sometimes a lack of coherence between different ideas. This may have a negative impact on the NPT process.

There are a few months left till the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the time for us to assess the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, therefore it is troubling that sometimes we tend to approach this in a rather emotional manner. We are not yet at the edge of a cliff as some may think as some progress has been achieved on the implementation of the Action Plan. And we should not be reluctant to acknowledge that. In fact, the 2010 NPT Action Plan is an achievement in itself. It is a sign that members of the NPT are able to agree on common goals.

The goals of the Action Plan are still relevant and its can only be achieved through its comprehensive implementation. We would like to encourage states to agree to continue the work on the implementation of the Action Plan also after 2015 along with efforts aimed at increasing transparency and confidence-building measures. The current Action Plan is extensive, balanced and substantive. Therefore, its fulfilment is crucial for strengthening the NPT without the need to start complicated and extended negotiations to identify new actions to invigorate the NPT.
Mr. Chairman,

A lot of effort has been put into the creation of a safer world. The fact that the number of nuclear weapons since the late 1980’s has decreased by three quarters is an achievement that should not be disregarded. Ukraine’s transfer of the world’s third largest nuclear arsenal at the time to Russia and accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state complemented by the Budapest memorandum was rightly seen as one of the biggest achievements for the NPT. It is deeply worrying that one party has violated the memorandum and put into question the credibility of the NPT and other agreements as well.

Mr. Chairman,

We are living in a complex and constantly changing world and some objectives cannot be reached as envisaged before or as swiftly as hoped. Initiatives with an aim to expedite the nuclear disarmament process have been launched. For example, one particular movement has been increasingly focusing on humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt, of course, about the grave and horrendous humanitarian consequences of possible use of nuclear weapons. And I am sure that this applies to every single country regardless of the possession of nuclear capabilities. This is precisely the reason why non-proliferation and stricter safeguards initiatives were launched in the past. Hence we cannot afford to have a fragmented approach to non-proliferation and disarmament before the NPT Review Conference. A side-event during the NPT Review Conference organised by Latvia will aim at exploring the possible bridges between different approaches to disarmament.

Finally, we would like to encourage current and possible future participating states to the NPT to keep their sights on the important success achieved by the NPT and to continue step-by-step efforts to achieve the goals enshrined in the NPT in all of its three pillars – non-proliferation, peaceful use of nuclear power and disarmament. All of these pillars remain equally important. We strongly believe that a continued substantive and balanced implementation of the provisions of the NPT and its Action Plan of 2010, as well as work on confidence-building measures and transparency will eventually lead to the creation of a safer world for all.

Thank you.