Mr Chair,

The 2010 NPT Review Conference recognized the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would follow any use of nuclear weapons. It reaffirmed the need for all states at all times to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law. The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is a matter that concerns all UN member states. Addressing this issue is part of our NPT agenda.

We have to take concrete and measurable steps to reach the NPT’s goal of a world without nuclear weapons. We need to fully implement the NPT 2010 Action Plan as a matter of urgency and thus contribute to achieving this goal.

However, as we approach the 2015 Review Conference for the NPT, it is with increasing concern that we see the limited progress that has been made in the implementation of the
nuclear disarmament actions set out in the 2010 Action Plan. We urge all member states, and in particular, the nuclear-weapon states, to make additional efforts to show that their disarmament efforts are credible and are moving in the right direction.

As we prepare for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the third conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, to be hosted by Austria in Vienna this December, will enable further discussion of the humanitarian perspective. We encourage all countries, both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to participate constructively in this important discussion.

Norway is and has been financing studies by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), and the International Law and Policy Institute, ILPI. Their studies address the consequences of nuclear testing and the risks associated with nuclear weapons, including the role of export controls in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We trust that these studies will provide valuable input to the discussions. Furthermore, Norway is contributing to the UNDP Sponsorship Program, with a view to facilitating participation at the Vienna Conference.

Mr Chair,

The humanitarian perspective has led to renewed interest in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It has drawn attention to the risks and consequences of continued collective inaction, not least for younger generations of the global public.

Achieving progress in the NPT Review Cycle is paramount. At the same time, Norway remains a staunch supporter of bilateral disarmament measures such as New START. It is vital that the process of reducing the existing arsenals of nuclear weapons continues. This is
especially important at a time when multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament remain plagued by a long-lasting impasse.

Bearing in mind our Alliance commitments, Norway will continue to participate actively through established forums in working towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

In our efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, we must continue to further reduce the role of these weapons. We need to consolidate existing nuclear-weapon-free zones – and support the establishment of new ones. It is of great importance that the conference on a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in the Middle East is held before 2015. We especially value the commitment shown by our Finnish colleagues to achieving this goal.

There is also a need to ensure that our verification systems are robust enough to provide the necessary confidence in the integrity of the non-proliferation and disarmament processes alike. These systems must be based on principles of verifiability, irreversibility and transparency. The UK and Norway have cooperated at expert level for a number of years on exploring the technical and procedural challenges that would be associated with a nuclear disarmament verification regime. The purpose of this cooperation is to show that collaboration between a nuclear-weapon state and non-nuclear-weapon state in the area of nuclear disarmament verification is both possible and necessary. Building trust between partners is key in this context.

Mr Chair,

A world free of nuclear weapons requires a credible non-proliferation regime. Norway hopes that additional steps will be taken to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force. We maintain our call for the universalization of IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards and the
Additional Protocol. The IAEA must be fully equipped to carry out its crucial task in the area of non-proliferation, and we support efforts to develop proliferation-resistant nuclear fuel cycles.

Norway fully supports the Nuclear Security Summit process to secure all sensitive nuclear material around the world. We must continue our efforts to develop cooperative arrangements for producing nuclear fuel for civilian reactors. We must also significantly reduce the use of highly enriched uranium in civilian nuclear research reactors.

Mr Chair,

All outstanding proliferation concerns must be resolved. We urge Iran to settle the issues related to its past and current nuclear programme, so that it fully fulfils its obligations under the NPT. A political solution to these issues would greatly strengthen the non-proliferation regime. We fully support ongoing diplomatic efforts by the P5+1 to seek a lasting agreement with Iran. Norway reiterates its strong condemnation of the nuclear and missile tests carried out by the DPRK.

Like the EU, Norway strongly condemns the violation by the Russian Federation of several commitments made under the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in 1994, in particular a commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine. Norway also expresses its concern over the negative consequences of these violations for international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

To conclude, Mr Chair,

We have not given up hope that we may succeed in ensuring implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments with the necessary degree of urgency. We hope that next year's
NPT Review Conference will have a positive outcome, and that substantial headway will be made in the implementation of the NPT Action Plan.

Thank you, Mr Chair.