Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau of the First Committee on your election and assuring you of the full support and cooperation of the Delegation of Viet Nam.

The Delegation of Viet Nam fully associates itself with the Statement, which shall be made latter by the distinguished Representative of Myanmar on behalf of the ASEAN member states.

Mr. Chairman,

Convinced that complete and total disarmament constitutes solid guaranty for the development of mankind, Viet Nam has always supported and tried to make its best contributions to all efforts aimed at consolidating commitments towards that goal, strengthening and further developing them as required in conclusions of relevant conferences and meetings as well as relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. We regret that recent continued endeavours by the international community at various disarmament multilateral fora such as the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and the Third Non Proliferation Treaty PrepCom did not bring about encouraging results. The current state of disarmament affairs, we believe, can only be rectified if real political will prevails and cooperative efforts to overcome existing difficulties and obstacles are renewed and redoubled.
Mr. Chairman,

It goes without saying that nuclear weapons are posing the most serious threat to international peace and security. Viet Nam has consistently called for total elimination of the nuclear arsenal and is committed to closely cooperating with the international community to get rid of such dangerous weapons. In this context, the Delegation of Viet Nam once again wishes to stress that International Court of Justice in its *Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons* of 8 July 1996 has clearly stated that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Viet Nam attaches great importance to the strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In accordance with their obligations under Article VI of the NPT Treaty, at the 2000 Review Conference the nuclear states have made an unequivocal undertaking to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals. This and other commitments at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences must be upheld. In this connection, Viet Nam fully supports the Non Aligned Movement's proposal to establish, at the 2005 Review Conference, subsidiary bodies to the Main Committees to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, on security assurances and so on. It is our sincere hope that the existing divergence of views among States Parties on priorities and perspectives on the 2005 NPT Review Conference will be soon resolved though a broadly acceptable program to assure its success.

Viet Nam fully recognizes the important role of IAEA's safeguards in consolidating and enhancing the verification system for the regime of non-proliferation. Assistance to non-nuclear-weapons states in peaceful uses of nuclear energy constitutes an important obligation under the NPT. Furthermore we wish to stress that the NPT Treaty has confirmed the right of countries to access, without discrimination, to the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Viet Nam realizes fully the importance of the CTBT in strengthening the non-proliferation regime and for nuclear disarmament. As an original signatory of the CTBT, we are in process of completing necessary procedures for ratifying the Treaty as soon as possible.
Mr. Chairman,

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWZ) constitutes important steps toward attaining the objective of regional and global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I wish to reaffirm Viet Nam's position supporting efforts to establish nuclear weapons-free zones in all regions of the world. Concerning the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Viet Nam welcomes the announcement by China of its readiness to accede to the Protocol annexed to the Treaty and calls upon other nuclear weapons states to do likewise.

Mr. Chairman,

The convening of the Fourth United Nations Special Session Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD IV) is imperative in order to review and assess the implementation of the First United Nations Special Session Devoted to Disarmament. We are disappointed by the lack of consensus in the open-ended working group set up by the General Assembly to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee for SSOD IV. We join many other delegations in calling upon the General Assembly to reconvene the working group to find practical ways to hold the Special Session as soon as possible.

Finally, relating to revitalizing the work of the First Committee, we join the NAM Working Group on Disarmament in presenting the NAM's common position on these important issues in the days to come and hope that through the constructive work, the First Committee will be able to make progress in formulating concrete and practical measures to strengthen the regime of disarmament, arm control and non-proliferation.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.