Mr. Chairman,

This is indeed a pleasure to see a representative of a country that is a close friend of Mongolia presiding over this meeting. I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. Please rest assured in my delegation's full support and assistance to you in discharge of your duties.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Let me also join many speakers who spoke before me in expressing disappointment over the situation that we are confronted with today in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation discussions.

The paralysis that struck the Conference on Disarmament for 8 consecutive sessions, deadlock at the Disarmament Commission over the last two years, unsuccessful 7th NPT Review Conference, and last but not least a complete failure to come to an agreed language pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation in the Outcome Document of the September Summit, have dealt a heavy blow to international efforts in this field. The present
situation is completely unacceptable against the backdrop of soaring global military spending and the catastrophic scenario of possible marriage between terrorism and WMDs. Indeed, the effects of a terrorist attack equipped with WMDs on one of the world's economic centers could affect the development prospects of millions around the globe causing a major economic downturn and plunging millions into poverty.

The failure at the NPT Review Conference was therefore particularly disappointing as it shut the door for another 5 long years to address and make headway on the vital issues related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. On the other hand the Review Conference vividly demonstrated the undiminished validity and centrality of the NPT as a cornerstone of the entire international arms control regime and the strong commitment of world nations to this vital instrument of international law. My country, guided by its internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free status and its longstanding and principled position as an advocate of nuclear disarmament, is committed to exert all efforts to contribute to the efforts to overcome the present impasse.

Mr. Chairman,

The mere existence of nuclear weapons represents a sword of Damocles over the head of mankind. We must get rid of this most inhumane and destructive weapons. The tragic legacy of Nagasaki and Hiroshima 60 years ago is a sobering reminder of their inanity and despicable cruelty. Retention and further development of something that can never be used, and if used would leave neither winners nor losers, is not only beyond comprehension, but also serves as an invitation for further nuclear proliferation.

My President stated during the September World Summit that "We need to build a safer world ... where deadly weapons do not fall into wrong hands, and technology is used for the betterment of a human life." The NPT is the right forum to make this vision a reality. To do so the Treaty ought to be implemented in its entirety.

The NPT has 3 pillars. Common sense dictates that each pillar has to be attached equal importance or the whole structure runs the risk of collapsing. It is true with regard to simple things like chairs and tables and
is fully applicable to the NPT regime. If we are to maintain and reinforce the credibility of the global non-proliferation regime, we cannot confuse ourselves to the challenges confronting the non-proliferation provisions of the NPT. Disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be given equal priority.

One of the key issues that have so far frustrated the full implementation of the NPT was the lack or insufficient progress on the part of nuclear-weapon States in complying with their disarmament obligations and commitments set forth in article VI of the NPT and "13 disarmament steps" agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. In this regard, my country is convinced that more vigorous and irreversible implementation by NWS of their "unequivocal commitment" to nuclear disarmament would considerably bolster the motivation of NNWS to invariably adhere to the provisions of the NPT. My delegation notes the completion of the deactivation of the entire force of 50 Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) by the United States. It, however, underscores the imperative that the principle of irreversibility to be applied to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures.

Nuclear weapon-free zones are instrumental in strengthening the non-proliferation regime and achieving the objective of complete nuclear disarmament. My country reiterates its support for establishing such zones throughout the world. In this sense, the first ever Conference of States Parties to Nuclear Weapon Free Zones held in Mexico in 26-28 April was an important contribution to the endeavors to consolidate existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and promote the establishment of new ones. The conference has also been helpful in strengthening further Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status: the Tlatelolco Declaration proclaimed "recognition and full support of Mongolia's international nuclear-weapon-free status".

Mongolia welcomes that the 4th round of 6 party talks held last month in Beijing succeeded in adopting a Joint Declaration reflecting interests of the concerned parties. It augurs well for the future negotiations. The implementation of the commitments taken by the parties shall have an important role in achieving a goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and
strengthening peace and security in the region of Northeast Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation underscores the inalienable right of non-nuclear-weapon States that have fully complied with their obligations under the NPT to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Proof of compliance with a treaty regime is imperative if one is to enjoy fully different privileges and rights conferred by the relevant legal instruments, and the NPT is no exception.

In this context, there should be no doubt that only those states that are in full and verified compliance with their non-proliferation obligations are entitled to exercise the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We must therefore seek to devise ways to control proliferation risks while ensuring that the inalienable right of States Parties to the NPT to enjoy the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear energy remains intact. An effective way to guarantee that and prevent latent proliferation is through reinforcing the IAEA’s authority by achieving universal adoption of an Additional Protocol, which together with a comprehensive safeguards agreement should rightly be recognized as a verification standard.

Mr. Chairman,

176 Signatories and 128 ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty are a testimony to its near universality and the wide support it enjoys from an overwhelming majority of world nations. However, the Treaty is still far from becoming fully operational as no progress was recorded since last year in the number of ratifications by those remaining 11 States on whose ratification its entry into force is dependent. Let me reiterate here that continuing moratoriums on tests, though welcome, can never substitute for the legally binding prohibition enshrined in the Treaty.

The verification regime established under the CTBT is unparalleled in its global reach. My country is keen to further explore the possible benefits for disaster alert warning, including earthquakes and other calamities, from the International Monitoring System in addition to its essential function of verification. Extensive use of data accumulated within the IMS for scientific and civilian uses has a real potential to assist in developmental efforts of
many countries.

Conclusion of a universal and verifiable Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty and an unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States, as well as the international instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be pursued as a matter of highest priority. Likewise, negotiating a verification protocol to the Biological Weapons Convention and achieving the scheduled destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles under the Chemical Weapons Convention are further vital considerations for the international community.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia denounces the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of all types of anti-personnel land mines and supports the efforts undertaken by the international community to ban this dangerous and indiscriminate weapon. My Government's Program of Action for 2004-2008 sets out the clear-cut objective to "accede to the Ottawa Convention on a step-by-step basis and reveal the information on the number and types of stockpiled landmines".

Mr. Chairman,

The state of affairs in international disarmament and non-proliferation field does not leave room for complacency. As my Norwegian colleague – Ambassador Lovland said in this committee on Monday "a new course in multilateral arms control diplomacy is achievable". My delegation however fully appreciates that it won't be an easy task to fulfill.

Civil society and NGOs will have an important role in helping us Member States to come with innovative ideas and solutions. We note, in this respect, the Article VI Forum launched recently by the Middle Powers Initiative.

A search for new formulas should serve the purpose of breaking the current deadlock in the existing disarmament machinery and strengthening the time-proved mechanisms. It is my conviction that this Main Committee as the most democratic and representative international security and disarmament body has a special role to play in this respect.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.