Dear Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment to guide our work. I also commend the efforts of the Bureau members to organize this useful debate.

My delegation strongly believes that general and complete disarmament is the cornerstone of international security and global peaceful development. Effective multilateralism and balanced approach should remain as the basis for negotiations on actual and potential problems of disarmament, proliferation and global security.

Ukraine fully reaffirms its commitment to strengthening the existing universal mechanisms in these areas.

In this regard, we believe that the Washington and Seoul Nuclear Security Summits were an important step on the way to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

As part of its contribution to that goal, Ukraine hosted the 2011 Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy. We have also delivered on the pledge, which was announced by President of Ukraine Mr Viktor Yanukovych in 2010, to give up all national stockpiles of the highly enriched uranium.
In this context, I would also like to recall the Joint Declaration by Ukraine, Mexico and Chile to make special efforts to neutralize the risks of use of highly enriched uranium. The Declaration remains open for signing, as other member-states are welcome to become part of the commitment to act jointly to prevent proliferation of nuclear technologies and materials for military and terrorist purposes.

In this context, we also stress the need for adherence by all States Parties to the existing multilateral legal instruments, specifically the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize it that Ukraine’s decision to renounce its world’s third largest nuclear arsenal and to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was encouraged by the political security guarantees received under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

Unfortunately, the ultimate goal of freeing the world from nuclear weapons is still a dream. Thus, negative security guarantees for states that abandoned their nuclear stockpiles and made other relevant strategic concessions should be moulded into an internationally binding legal instrument.

This could be done in an international conference held under the UN auspices.

Mr. Chairman,

As a non-block state, Ukraine cannot but be concerned with the erosion of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Therefore, we plan to keep this issue high on the agenda during our 2013 OSCE Chairmanship. We view the treaty as a cornerstone of stability on the continent and encourage the States Parties to ensure its steadfast and effective implementation. Ukraine will also pay particular attention to updating the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, since the security environment has significantly changed.

Despite the longstanding impasse in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the Delegation of Ukraine is of the opinion that the CD, which includes every major nuclear stakeholder, remains the most relevant venue for further progress in reducing nuclear arsenals. However, a productive work of this forum cannot be possible without strict adherence to the rule of consensus through which legitimate security concerns of each state can be effectively accommodated.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty continues to be a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Ukraine is fully committed to the implementation of the NPT regarding its all three mutually reinforcing pillars. The decisions of the 2010 Review Conference are a reliable reference point for our future efforts, as they provide a set of practical and balanced tools to universalize and strengthen the Treaty.

Also, Ukraine encourages further universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In this regard, we urge the states that have not done so to ratify the document, to open the way for its entry into force. In the meanwhile, it
is crucial that all states steadfastly refrain from further nuclear tests and any other acts contrary to the purposes of the Treaty.

Elimination of all nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used. However, mere declarations are not enough for achieving this goal. Major practical steps are necessary, like seizing the production of fissile materials under the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

Ukraine reaffirms its full support to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and commends its important work in implementing safeguards to verify compliance with the nonproliferation obligations. The Model Additional Protocol is an essential and indispensable tool for effective functioning of the IAEA safeguards system. Nuclear technology must be further developed in line with the agreed guarantees, while taking into account the growing energy demand and, in parallel, the need to tighten substantially the safety standards for operation of nuclear power plants. Ukraine calls on all NPT Parties that have not yet done so to accede to and fully implement comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA and to put into effect its additional protocols.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all aware of our common challenges.

With tools we already have on hand and the common will to explore additional ways how to augment them, we stand a good chance of writing in a new success chapter in the multilateral cooperation to strengthen international peace and security.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by extending to all delegations my best wishes for a productive work ahead.

My delegation is looking forward to working constructively to ensure ultimate success of our 2012 session.

Thank you.