Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee for the 67th UNGA. We look forward to a productive and fruitful session under your able leadership. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your responsibilities.

Bangladesh aligns itself with the Statement made by the Permanent Representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. However, I would like to highlight a few points in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

As a responsible member of the international community, Bangladesh attaches utmost importance to general and complete disarmament as a means to ensure international peace and security. Our contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security through participation in UN peacekeeping and peace building efforts have been widely recognized. We are also the signatories to all major multilateral disarmament treaties, including the NPT, the CWC, the BWC, the CCW and the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

We are dismayed to see the near deadlock in the UN-led global, multilateral disarmament diplomacy. The lack of progress is evident in negotiations on both conventional weapons as well as weapons of mass destructions. In July this year, the negotiations on Arms Trade Treaty ended without a treaty having been concluded. The cost of that failure is enormous. Illegal trade in and illegitimate use of conventional weapons continue to fuel violence, fan existing conflicts, and, thus, exact heavy human and humanitarian costs, affecting lives and livelihood of civilians of many regions. The July ATT conference presented a seminal opportunity to stop the menace of illegal trade
achieved within the framework of the three clearly-defined and mutually reinforcing pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Over the years, while significant progress has been achieved regarding nuclear non-proliferation, limiting the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, the nuclear disarmament goal of NPT remains unrealized. Bangladesh therefore reiterates the call for adopting a balanced approach in addressing the three pillars of NPT. We also believe that peaceful use of nuclear energy under comprehensive IAEA safeguards can help address key development challenges of many countries. In this regard, Bangladesh, with the assistance and strict supervision of IAEA, has been working on civil and peaceful use of nuclear technology, especially in agriculture, energy and health sectors.

Bangladesh has been the first Annex-2 South Asian nation to join the CTBT. The universalisation and entry into force of CTBT at an early date would be crucial for attaining our goal of a nuclear weapon free world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) has met in vain for the last one decade and half. After the successful negotiation of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963, the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970 and, more recently, the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1992, the forum increasingly stagnated. The last time the Conference agreed to negotiate was in 1996—this time for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly but has yet to enter into force. Ever since, the so-called "single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community" has been unable to undertake substantive work mostly as a result of vested interests of a few member states and procedural difficulty such as consensus based decision making process within the CD. In 2009, a Programme of Work was approved, but the CD failed to implement it. Pragmatic interventions are