Before we proceed, I would like to say a few words in my capacity as the Chairman of the First Committee for this session.

As you know, the issues before us are critical to world peace and security. I very much hope that we will play our role effectively to advance work here. I am confident that by working together, cooperating and exercising our respective political capital, the globally agreed agenda on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation can be meaningfully advanced.

The esteemed political leaders of UN member nations spoke at the General Debate recently on the imperative to attain global wellbeing. Indeed our interconnected world will achieve sustained progress only if people in all regions see visible peace, security and stability. And that means that the unfulfilled on the agenda of the First Committee should be fulfilled by all of us.

While I do not minimize the difficulties ahead, you will agree that we need to redouble our efforts in the First Committee, and do our best to try to achieve agreement on the vital matters.

I reiterate my goal of working closely with all of you constructively. I am positive that our collective endeavor can yield befitting progress on disarmament and international security.

In the field of weapons of mass destruction, building on the progress, we need to
intensify the implementation of the disarmament and non-proliferation commitments and agreements reached at the NPT and BWC review conferences as well as the timeline agreed by State parties to the CWC.

And we should overcome the continued lack of progress and impasse in the disarmament machinery with our political will and actions.

We must with highest seriousness and steadfastness fairly discuss the issues that are hindering progress on disarmament and non-proliferation. It is paramount that the CD, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament and non-proliferation, should start its substantive work on the core issues of its agenda.

Auspiciously, in the field of conventional weapons, we have success in the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects after eleven years since the adoption of the PoA. This is to be commended. It is imperative that we implement the Outcome, and also strengthen the cooperation and assistance to eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

Although the recent failure of the ATT to agree on the text of a treaty that would set common standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms is disappointing, it is encouraging that there are efforts to continue pursuing the adoption of a treaty building upon the common ground reached during the negotiations. These efforts should be supported.
We need to be politically bold and inspire each other to overcome the hurdles that have impeded us. There is no obstacle that we will not be able to overcome if we join hands and work with sincerity and determination to materialize solutions.

Let us launch ourselves in this new Committee’s session with renewed zeal and be proud of its outcome when the session ends.