Mr. President,

We live in a time of great contrasts; while we note with satisfaction that we have delivered strong multilateral instruments banning the production and use of weapons of mass destruction, such as biological and chemical, at the same time we are deeply concerned that a small number of countries continue spending an enormous amount of financial, technological, human and material resources, which exceed a billion dollars, to produce new deadlier war artifacts.

Mexico regrets the contrast between the high amount of resources allocated to the production of more lethal weapons of mass destruction, compared to the scarce resources intended to meet the economic and social needs that many developing countries face.

The Delegation of Mexico considers important to reflect on what should be the contribution from the field of disarmament and from this forum, to development, social equality, and to the international peace and security that we all desire. Building a world free of weapons of mass destruction is the challenge that we all members of the United Nations have. This requires a strong and unwavering political will from producers and arms exporter countries.

Mexico reiterates that a system of international security and peace of the twenty-first century should not be built or sustained on weapons of mass destruction, with inhumane or indiscriminate effects. This new architecture must be built on justice and social development, international law and the application of the rule of law, as well as solidarity and peaceful coexistence among peoples.

Thus, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention are milestones and main pillars in the new international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture that we are building. With these conventions we established ground rules for the prohibition and elimination of inhuman war instruments in the world. We have made significant progress in achieving the overall objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation, but we lack greater efforts in this direction to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction.
Mr. President,

The CWC has proved the most successful, advanced and effective instrument of disarmament. It does not only prohibit chemical weapons, but ordered its destruction under a regime which is the highest standard on verification: inspection can be done at anytime, anywhere and without the possibility for the Parties to refuse.

This regime represents the heart and credibility of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which in recent months has played a leading role in the process of verification on the field of arsenal and chemical weapons facilities elimination in Syria.

Mexico expresses its appreciation to the leadership of Director General, Ambassador Amhet Üzümcü, and his staff at the Technical Secretariat, especially those who have been in the field, to bring to a successful conclusion the compliance program to destroy weapons and production facilities for chemical weapons in Syria. The successful work of supervision and inspection by the OPCW has demonstrated professionalism and ethical commitment of the international staff to achieve the common goal of freeing the world of chemical weapons.

The complete destruction and removal of chemical weapons from Syria on June 23, 2014, days before the deadline established by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118 (2013), is an unprecedented and historical fact in collective efforts to firmly advance in building a world free of weapons of mass destruction. The Organization is an example to other organizations in disarmament and non-proliferation to build a strong international architecture for peace and security for present and future generations.

The OPCW still has challenges to overcome in relation to the physical destruction of the 12 chemical weapons production facilities in Syria, as well as knowing the clarifications to the information in the opening statement and subsequent amendments which Syria submitted to the Organization. We express our appreciation to Syria’s disposition to clarify the observed inconsistencies in its statements. We believe that this contributes to transparency in the presentation of information and, at the same time, to compliance with the provisions of the CWC and the strengthening of the regime established by this instrument.

We welcome the report of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission which investigated the allegations of use of chlorine gas against the civilian population in Syria. Confirmation of use of the toxic substance, repeatedly and systematically against civilians in three villages in northern Syria, requires a strong condemnation and a deep investigation of who used it and to determine its liability before the relevant international bodies.

My country considers important to promote the full implementation of the Convention in all its dimensions, both in the total elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles, as in verification, assistance and international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities, aspects not prohibited under the Convention.
Mexico condemns the use of chemical weapons or toxic substances used as weapons by any actor and at any place, because it contravenes the provisions of the Convention and the International Humanitarian Law. Therefore, Mexico reiterates that it does not have, nor has had any chemical weapons and neither produces nor has produced them. We believe that all weapons of mass destruction and indiscriminate effects should be abolished and eliminated. This is a pending issue for the international community.

Mr President,

The Biological Weapons Convention is the first multilateral legally binding instrument prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. This Convention constitutes one of the most important pillars of the international regime on disarmament, non-proliferation and global public health. We therefore regret that States Parties have not reached consensus on minimal agreements that permit the establishment of tools needed to verify the implementation and enforcement of the Convention. It is imperative that the Parties have legal and political certainty on the implementation of this instrument, as well as on the elimination of stockpiles of biological weapons.

The current situation in several West African countries affected by Ebola virus is a call to the attention of the international community to seriously consider the issue of global public health. My country reiterates that safety in the XXI century must be approached from a multidimensional perspective that includes aspects of public health, biotechnology, epidemiology, monitoring and early warning and control of dual-use materials. For Mexico is crucial that the Convention establishes synergies with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and other relevant agencies for its application and complementing an approach only focused in military aspects.

In this process, the issue of international cooperation is particularly relevant, especially since in the Convention the obligation to cooperate with States Parties is included. To this end, the Parties should promote assistance and cooperation, not only to deal with attacks with biological agents, but also for building national capacities for addressing and preventing outbreaks of infectious diseases. In this regard, it is essential to promote triangular, South-South, North-South and South-North cooperation, in order to strengthen the response, management and mitigation of potential crises and to reduce inequalities between countries with a greater scientific and technological development, and those countries that are still building its capacity in this area.

Mr. President,

My country reiterates the importance of encouraging greater involvement and participation of civil society, scientific, academic and private sector in the promotion and implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention. Only if we consider the voices of civil society that advocate for change in the world we will achieve further progress in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
Mexico does not have, or had chemical or biological weapons and neither produces or has produced them. Mexico maintains an active, consistent and committed to disarmament position, since it is the only guarantee to achieve international security.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.