Mr. Chairman,

1. I congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of the First Committee of the 70th session of the General Assembly. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

2. Viet Nam associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

3. Seventy years ago the United Nations was established with the lofty goal to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". The Charter established the framework for a system of collective security based on the prohibition of the use of force in international relations, peaceful settlements of disputes in accordance with international law, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as the formation of multilateral institutions for giving practical effect to these principles. Viet Nam has been striving its utmost to uphold the United Nations' purposes and principles.

4. The First Committee is having this debate against the backdrop of a number of increasing challenges to international peace and security. The continued existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, the illicit trade and transfer of small arms and light weapons pose serious threats to peace and security, stability and development. The potential catastrophic humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons in particular is unbearable and should
compel us to consider eliminating them as soon as possible. International efforts should be further intensified to pursue global disarmament and non-proliferation. The international community needs to find ways to increase transparency, build confidence and both lay the ground for and pursue further actions to maintain world peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Viet Nam continues to support efforts towards comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation, with highest priority given to the general and complete elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We welcome the outcomes of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna, Austria last December 2014. The endorsement of the Humanitarian Pledge by 119 states, including Viet Nam, is another testimony of the strong desire of the international community to put an end to the threat of destruction by nuclear weapons, and can offer a platform for launching negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

6. We reiterate our commitment to and strict implementation of the obligations under fundamental disarmament and non-proliferation treaties such as the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other relevant UN Security Council (SC) resolutions. As the 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to adopt an outcome document, we believe it is crucial to effectively implement the 64-point Action Plan of the 2010 Review Conference, across all of the Treaty’s pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We welcome the work done by the Group of Eminent Persons in advancing the entry into force Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty’s (CTBT) and call upon States that have not signed or ratified the CTBT to do so at the earliest possible.

7. We actively support the central role of the IAEA and its safeguards system, whose effective implementation is of paramount importance to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are fully committed to cooperating with IAEA and other international partners to ensure nuclear safety and security and promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Viet Nam is pleased to have fulfilled our
responsibility as Chair and Member of the IAEA Board of Governors for the term 2013-2015. We have also been working closely with the IAEA and other international partners in the field of capacity building, which is of the utmost importance to the responsible development of nuclear energy.

8. Viet Nam underlines the importance of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) which is one of the most effective tools for ensuring peace, stability and cooperation in the region. We urge the Nuclear Weapon States to work towards the early signing and ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

9. With regards to conventional arms, while reaffirming the legitimate rights of states to manufacture, trade and retain conventional weapons for national self-defence, Viet Nam commits itself to positively implementing many related international cooperation agreements, including the submission of yearly reports on arms imports and exports to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. We support the effective implementation of the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) to curb the illicit trade of SALW across borders and prevent SALW from falling into the hands of criminals and terrorists.

10. As one of a few countries heavily affected by cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnances left over by devastating and protracted wars, Viet Nam supports the humanitarian goals of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Anti-personnel Landmines Convention, including the establishment of cooperation mechanisms and international assistance to solve the aftermath of war. The Government of Viet Nam has adopted many policies and guidelines to address the post-war consequences of bombs and mines, including a comprehensive national action plan for the 2010-2025 period. We commit ourselves politically and practically to improving the livelihood of victims of bombs, mines and other explosive remnants of war by providing assistance, including treatment, rehabilitation and support for the victims' re-integration in socio-economic activities. We thank all international partners who have
supported this humanitarian endeavour, and look forward to continued and increased international support.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Enhancing the effectiveness of UN disarmament machinery is a shared objective. We support the enhancement and reinforcement of the disarmament machinery, with special attention given to the revitalization of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), in order to negotiate primary issues regarding nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

12. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by stressing that this Committee, as a true multilateral and inclusive deliberative forum, has an important responsibility to pave the way for common goals of disarmament, non-proliferation and international peace and stability. My delegation stands ready to engage constructively with you, Mr. Chairman and other Member States, in this common effort to advance a safe, stable, peaceful and prosperous world for all.