Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of the full support of the Serbian delegation in the discharge of your important duties. On behalf of my delegation, I wish you every success.

Serbia has aligned itself with the statement made by the European Union; nonetheless, I shall address some of the priorities from Serbia's point of view and some activities it has pursued in connection with various topics on our agenda.

The new millennium has brought many changes in the international security arena which, in addition to traditional threats, is fraught with multiple and complex non-traditional security challenges that seriously affect not only individual countries, but the international community as a whole. Serbia believes that productive multilateralism has an indispensable role in addressing those challenges in an effective and sustainable manner. We are convinced that such vigorous approach in the areas of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament is needed and also obtainable if a spirit of cooperation, compromise and flexibility, as well as a common vision and strategic foresight are exercised by all. In our view, it has no alternative in a world of increasing interdependence and complexity in which common challenges require common solutions.

Serbia supports all efforts aimed at strengthening global security and promoting international stability. It has acceded to all major international agreements in the areas of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control and is committed to a full and systematic implementation of the obligations it has assumed.
Mr. Chairman,

Even though no consensus was reached on a final document at the 2015 Review Conference, we reiterate our strong support for all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the essential vehicle for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a nuclear weapon-free world. As such, NPT should be further enhanced through full compliance by all State Parties.

Serbia supported and participated actively in the Conferences on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons from their inception and we reiterate our support to the Humanitarian Pledge, launched by Austria.

My country has taken extensive legislative, regulatory and other measures in order to enhance nuclear safety. Among these measures is active cooperation with the IAEA within the project VIND - Vinca Nuclear Decommissioning Programme - regarding the repatriation of the spent nuclear fuel from the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science to the Russian Federation. It is one of the biggest technical projects of cooperation in the history of the IAEA and is carried out with the assistance of our international partners.

Serbia is a staunch advocate of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as another fundamental pillar of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It continues to attach great importance to the fulfilment of the obligations under UNSC resolution 1540 (2004). We also call for the opening of negotiations on the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) as soon as possible.

In the context of Serbia’s current OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, I would like to add a few words on OSCE engagement in the field of non-proliferation. The OSCE activities are based on the 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. The Principles provide, *inter alia*, a framework for the universal adherence to the NPT, full implementation of existing commitments and for adoption of a common stance in case of withdrawal by a NPT Party. Particular attention is accorded to the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 in the OSCE area. The OSCE Secretariat and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) concluded, in 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding on the project of non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. The close cooperation of the OSCE Secretariat with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts resulted in a number of successful national round tables and adoption of national action plans in Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, FYR Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Armenia.

Mr. Chairman,

Serbia is committed to a full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Cooperation with the OPCW continues to develop in many directions, especially in the field of training and organization of international seminars on assistance, decontamination, detection and protection in the regional CBRN Centre in the Serbian town of Kruševac.

Mr. Chairman,

Serbia has also acceded to all major international instruments in the field of combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) including the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), UN Firearms Protocol and the International Tracing Instrument.

Serbia had ratified the ATT in October 2014, before it entered into force on 24 December 2014, and actively participated at the First Conference of States Parties to the ATT in Cancun in August this year. We think the Conference succeeded in creating the needed framework for reaching the objectives established under the ATT and we welcome its important substantial and operational decisions.
After the ratification of the ATT last year, we adopted the new national Law on the Export and Import of Arms and Military Equipment and the Law on the Export and Import of dual-use goods, which are in accordance with the criteria and principles of the ATT. Another Draft law on the implementation of international restrictive measures is currently undergoing the procedure in our National Parliament and we expect it will be adopted very soon. In February of this year, the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted a new Law on Arms and Ammunition which shortly after entered into force and contributed to legalization of significant number of arms and ammunition in Serbia.

Although we have witnessed some important developments in the field of conventional weapons, much remains to be done if we are to address the challenges we face in a comprehensive and effective way. It is Serbia’s strong conviction that international cooperation is the key to the progress in resolving the issues of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons that occurs in all parts of the globe and sparks and fuels armed conflicts, violence, and organized crime, causes most of civilian casualties and hinders rebuilding and development. In that context, we welcome recently adopted target 4 under the sustainable development goal 16, which seeks to reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

I would like to use this opportunity to inform you briefly on the main OSCE activities in the area of conventional arms. The OSCE promoted a number of specific measures and projects, including norms and principles concerning transfers of conventional arms. Namely, the OSCE was one of the first organizations which, on the 25th November 1993, adopted a document on the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers. These established criteria were a starting point for the documents which other organizations have adopted. The OSCE has adopted a number of other documents particularly those dealing with export procedures for small arms and light weapons export and its participating States submit answers to the OSCE Questionnaire on export control every year. The OSCE also adopted a Handbook of Best Practice Guidelines on different issues. Majority of the OSCE participating States ratified the ATT and the OSCE fully supports and will continue to support all activities and goals defined under the ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that the member States of the Conference on Disarmament will finally consider another essential issue that is of particular interest to my country. It is the issue of enlargement of the Conference. Every one of us should be given an opportunity to participate in future talks on revitalization of the multilateral disarmament machinery and take their share of responsibility. We all must demonstrate clear political will to overcome the ongoing stalemate and engage, seriously and without delay, in substantive discussions on core issues on its agenda in order to make a credible contribution to international peace and security. Serbia stands ready to play a very active role in this regard.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.