Mr. Chairman,

We have to admit that the UN disarmament triad - the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament - has experienced numerous impediments over the last decades.

It is widely acknowledged that the UN Disarmament Commission was created as a deliberative body by the decision of the SSOD-I, with the purpose of making recommendations on various issues in the field of disarmament. By the same decision, the Conference on Disarmament was established and it remains the only multilateral forum, till this day, for negotiations on disarmament issues.

The First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which annually drafts resolutions in the field of disarmament, completes the disarmament triad. At the same time, we also note with deep regret that this Committee too has not fulfilled its mandate like the Commission. Although the relationship between entities of this triad was originally meant to be accurately harmonized, sadly this balance has now been lost due to varying national perspectives that take precedence over the common collective good.

The previous cycle of the Disarmament Commission could not prepare its recommendations and the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to adopt the Program of Work for decades.

However, we only now note a good start of the new cycle of the Commission, which can allow us to move forward towards the next two sessions with the aim of achieving consensus to be reached in both the working groups in 2020. However that calls for constructive and a pragmatic stance and unity of Member States despite the different points of views and geopolitical tensions that can pose challenges and threats to reaching common ground.

The First Committee, which has great opportunities for manoeuvres, is also far from being an example of unity. Despite the general statements of all the delegations on their commitment to nuclear disarmament, none of the nuclear
disarmament resolutions of the First Committee, except for the recognition of nuclear-weapon-free zones, have been adopted by consensus.

We would also like to touch upon the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Kazakhstan views the CD as the only multilateral forum for negotiations on disarmament. Nearly all existing international treaties in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation have been drafted in the CD. Despite having such strong capabilities and potential for the common public good, the Conference has been deadlocked.

This year, the Conference established five subsidiary bodies to discuss items, such as, nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It also decided to focus on new types of WMD and new systems of such weapons. A large amount of work was done in the framework of these subsidiary bodies and we thus hope that this positive dynamism and momentum will continue next year and the CD will adopt its Program of Work.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters seamlessly and significantly complement the disarmament triad.

UNIDIR’s expertise is especially important in preparing thematic documents, which help to study disarmament issues in a comprehensive and objective manner. Kazakhstan strongly supports the activities of the Institute and makes voluntary contributions. We therefore encourage Member States to extend their ongoing financial and political support for UNIDIR’s operational budget and also its concrete projects.

The Advisory Board has proven a valuable incubator for ideas on how to address the challenges posed by emerging technologies and disarmament education.

Civil society organizations also have proven to be key champions and advocates of the disarmament process. In this regard, the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), is a good example. Over the years ICAN has been an active and tireless voice for nuclear disarmament.

Finally, it is obvious that that policy and decision makers in the field of arms control, need to enhance the engagement of the expert and scientific community and civil society in discussing all aspects of the disarmament and non-proliferation issues and work as a collective synergy with redoubled vigour to achieve what we all commonly aspire.

Thank you for your attention.