Thank you, Mr Chairman,

My Delegation wishes to extend to you and the Members of the Bureau our warmest congratulations on your election. I assure you of my Delegation’s full support and cooperation as you steer the work of the First Committee.

One of the core purposes of the United Nations, as set out in the very first Article of the Charter, is to maintain international peace and security, and to remove threats to peace, by harmonious means. Therefore, global disarmament and non-proliferation must remain integral to the work of the United Nations, as we seek to promote peace, prosperity and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mediation.

The work of the international disarmament regime relies on the global community co-operating in the spirit of multilateralism; it relies on good faith and trust amongst parties, and it relies on the promotion of respect for the international order. It is our collective responsibility as Member States of this august body, to work together for the betterment of humanity, where even the smallest of countries in this interconnected world, could be affected by conflicts around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The Maldives holds a strong record on disarmament and non-proliferation—we have never sought the knowledge required to produce any category of weapons, nor do we intend to stray from this path of peaceful co-existence. We are a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, amongst others, and are proud to announce that, just last month, we signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Maldives also acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munition, and the UN Arms Trade Treaty during this year’s Treaty Event week.
These recent ratifications, and our record reflects our belief that security and strength is achieved not through weapons of war, but through investment in our people and our environment—by reducing poverty, investing in sustainable development, guaranteeing fundamental human rights, strengthening democratic processes, and increasing our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

It is for this very reason that the Maldives remains convinced that, in order to truly achieve durable peace, we must adopt a holistic approach to peacebuilding, and expand our focus beyond the traditional discourse on security and disarmament.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives wishes to emphasise the way in which sustainable development must be central to our work on disarmament, non-proliferation, and peacebuilding. As highlighted by the Secretary-General in his Agenda for Development released last year, the link between peace and development is one that is clear and well-established. Disarmament is a necessary pre-condition for sustainable development and the promotion of human rights. Likewise, durable and successful development is a key tool in the prevention of conflict.

The Maldives also believes that durable peace is reliant on treating non-traditional and emerging threats to international peace and security as serious concerns. These include threats such as climate change, trans-national organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism, all of which increase instability and the likelihood of conflicts. We must adjust to the changing nature of the threats to international peace and security, and we believe that this Committee could address these non-traditional and emerging threats in a more holistic manner.

Finally, the Maldives calls upon all states to continue to work together to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. We take this opportunity to encourage those states that have not ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to do so at the earliest possible, so that it may enter into force.

The Maldives reaffirms our belief that disarmament and non-proliferation will make the world safer, more prosperous and better prepared to tackle twenty-first century challenges. It is critical that we continue to view disarmament, non-proliferation and peace building in a broader sense, and prioritise this shared responsibility as a matter of utmost urgency.

I thank you.