Mr. Chair,

At the outset allow me to join the distinguished delegates who spoke before me in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your elections to steer the work of this important Committee during the 74th session. I want to assure you of my delegation’s full support during our deliberations.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Zambia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the African Group respectively, and wishes to briefly stress on the following:

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea attaches great importance to the full observance of all principles and norms of international law, including full respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states in the maintenance of international peace and security. Eritrea believes that international peace and security could only be guaranteed through stable and inclusive global economic and social development and full respect of the UN charter, international law as well as treaty obligations. Eritrea’s foreign and national security policy is anchored on ensuring economic growth and inclusive development and establishing a peaceful and cooperative neighborhood.

Mr. Chair,

Achieving peace and security in any region necessitates meaningful cooperation and engagement among countries of the region to be able to address the root causes of insecurity and issues of common concern. It requires an inclusive regional conflict mechanism that can organically evolve to address the specific challenges of the region.

The Horn of Africa, locked in a zero-sum game for several decades, has now shown its determination to change its own destiny by steadily moving towards peace and stability. Challenges will remain, yet the new developments within countries and in regional relationship...
have put the Horn of Africa in a positive trajectory for peace and prosperity. Eritrea has always believed in the shared destiny of the peoples of the Horn of Africa; they can only progress together without excluding any people or country.

Mr. Chair,

The continued existence and possession of nuclear weapons, and the impending nuclear arms race characterized by upgrading and modernizing of nuclear arsenals do not guarantee security. They pose existential threat to humanity. The non-use of nuclear arms can only be a guarantee by the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons. The full implementation of NPT, including Article VI, and the ratification of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon constitute key to a world free of nuclear arms. Moreover, Eritrea believes the legally binding negative assurance, establishment of nuclear free zones as well as the universalization and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as critical steps towards general and complete nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

It is true that we should be realistic and cannot expect an overnight change of somewhat strained international climate. Yet, it is the conviction of my delegation that the international community can meet the challenges to peace and security through multilateralism. Multilateralism and multilateral agreements in accordance with the UN Charter provide the solid basis for addressing disarmament, peace and security issues. Embargoes and other pressures can hardly offer a fundamental solution to the proliferation concerns. In this regard, Eritrea reiterates its commitment to the work of Disarmament and International Security, as disarmament can only be achieved on a multilateral basis.

Let me conclude by reiterating that disarmament benefits mankind not only because it eliminates threats to peace and security but also frees up badly needed resources to development efforts.