In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you wholeheartedly for your election and assure you of our full support and cooperation. I am confident that with your diplomatic skill and experience, the Committee will conclude its work successfully. I also congratulate other bureau members on their election and associate myself with the NAM statement delivered by Indonesia.

Since the last meeting of the Committee, the world’s security situation has alarmingly deteriorated; the trend of reducing of nuclear weapons has clearly been reversed; the authority of the relevant instruments has diminished; the regional security trends are alarming; outer space is on the verge of weaponization; the malign use of the ICT is seriously challenging our security; and the disarmament fora have either been politicized or remained stagnant.

A glance at the root causes of these trends indicates that irresponsible policies, as well as lack of genuine political will of certain States, are at the heart of the problem.

Unfortunately, the new nuclear arms race has reversed the trend of reducing the number of nuclear weapons. The situation has been made even more worrisome with the current nuclear arms modernization race.

The development of low-yield nuclear warheads -- which increases the likelihood of their use -- reveals how vast the scope and how dangerous the severity of these trends are.

The U.S. NPR not only provides for the development of more nuclear weapons but also for their modernization. Likewise, it allows for nuclear tests and the use of nuclear weapons even
against the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT. These policies are irresponsible, immoral and unlawful and in non-compliance with legal obligations of that country.

Another alarming trend is the diminishing authority of the relevant key multilateral and bilateral instruments. The latest example is the termination of the INF Treaty as a result of the withdrawal of the U.S. If this country continues its current irresponsible policies, the fate of the New START will be the same as the INF Treaty.

We should also refer to the illegal withdrawal of the U.S. from the JCPOA, leaving this key achievement of multilateral diplomacy in a critical condition. The U.S. not only continuously violates SC Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA, but is also brazenly threatening others either to violate that resolution or face punishment.

The U.S. also rejects the continued strong calls by the international community for its maximum restraint and its return to the JCPOA. Additionally, the U.S. has launched not only a maximum pressure campaign but also economic terrorism against Iran. This shows how irresponsible American policies undermine multilateralism. The international community must prevent this destructive unilateral approach.

Iran will continue its compliance with the JCPOA as verified so far by successive IAEA reports. Nevertheless, Iran alone cannot, shall not and will not take all of the burdens anymore to preserve the JCPOA. We cannot and will not stand idly by against non-compliance of the other participants. Iran must receive the intended benefits from the JCPOA.

Our recent steps are aimed at bringing a balance to the JCPOA. They are taken in full conformity with paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, according to which, in case of “a re-introduction or re-imposition of the sanctions ... or such an imposition of new nuclear-related sanctions”, Iran will have the right “to cease performing its commitments under this JCPOA in whole or in part”.

In fact, this is a minimum measure that Iran could adopt, a year after the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA and re-imposed its sanctions. At the same time, I must stress that our measures are reversible.

Now, the remaining JCPOA participants, particularly the E3, must either prove their goodwill by taking timely, adequate, serious and practical steps to preserve the JCPOA which is now in critical condition or, along with the U.S., accept the full responsibility for any possible consequences.

Unfortunately, the lack of political will by the NWSs to begin meaningful negotiations on nuclear disarmament seriously impedes the full and effective implementation of the NPT. To prevent this trend, the 2020 NPT Review Conference must make concrete decisions on nuclear disarmament.
Iran will continue calling for the full, effective and balanced implementation of all provisions of the Treaty as well as the decisions of its Review Conferences. In this context, in addition to nuclear disarmament, we will seriously focus on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

Nuclear weapons are dangerous in the hands of Israel, with its long dark record of occupation, aggression and committing all core international crimes. In addition to threatening regional and international peace and security, Israel’s nuclear weapons, as well as its stubborn policies, are the main obstacles to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East proposed by Iran in 1974.

To that end and also to prevent the further deterioration of the volatile security situation in the Middle East, Israel must be compelled to join the NPT without any precondition and further delay as a non-nuclear-weapon party and to place all its nuclear activities and facilities under the full-scope safeguards of the IAEA. Israel must also be forced to participate in the Conference on the Establishment of a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East in November 2019.

As a victim of weapons of mass destruction, Iran attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation as well as the universalization of the BWC and CWC while avoiding their politicization.

We also call for serious international efforts to prevent weaponization of outer space. The establishment of a space force by the U.S. aiming at achieving dominance in space is both irresponsible and alarming. All such measures must come to an end.

We also reaffirm the need for international efforts to address the security challenges emanating from the unlawful use of the ICTs. Such an inclusive forum as the relevant OWEG must be institutionalized as an ad hoc deliberative body of the UNGA on the subject.

Finally, we stand ready to cooperate constructively in addressing the challenges in the field of disarmament and international security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.