Mr. Chairman,

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and with the statement delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the group of states. I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

The rules-based international order developed in the last century has allowed us to live in by far the most peaceful time of all of human history. The NPT is an indispensable element of it. On the eve of the NPT Review Conference, I remain confident that current challenges can be solved and a positive affirmation to relevance and significance of this Treaty will be made.

Re-establishing a climate of trust and confidence and recapturing a sense of common purpose in disarmament fora are prerequisites to making progress on the commitments we have made decades ago.

We do not operate in a political vacuum. If we want to succeed, nuclear disarmament efforts must consider the wider security context.

NPT remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. It serves as a safeguard to the international rules based order amid the worrying build-up of incendiary nuclear rhetoric and intransparent behaviour on international arena.

The ambitious agenda of 2010 has not lost any relevance. The entry into force of the CTBT and negotiations on the FMCT are two long-standing necessities in this regard.

“Step by step” approach requires constructive engagement by all states. Therefore, processes, such as the Initiative on Creating Environment for Nuclear Disarmament and multilateral nuclear disarmament verification are necessary steps towards confidence building.
Honoring commitments are essential. It proves the sincerity of our intentions. However, formal declarations are not enough. We have to distinguish between true sincerity and one that serves to mask hidden intentions.

We regret that Russia’s unwillingness to address concerns regarding its non-compliance with the INF Treaty continuously eroded trust and undermined the effectiveness of the treaty.

Effective non-proliferation contributes to confidence and security.

I reiterate Latvia’s support for the comprehensive work of the IAEA in monitoring and verification activities in Iran.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group that Latvia had a privilege to chair last year; the UN Security Council resolution 1540; the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism - all these platforms demonstrate that cooperation is possible if the political will and unity of interests exist.

Latvia also supports ongoing diplomatic efforts towards full and verifiable denuclearization of DPRK. Latvia continuously urges DPRK to return to full compliance with its international obligations, including the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

To conclude, rebuilding trust and confidence are the main elements for sustained and successful disarmament and non-proliferation. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that these elements receive serious consideration and appropriate action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.