STATEMENT

delivered by

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at the

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -
Chair,

30 years after the end of the Cold War, rhetoric about the necessity and utility of nuclear weapons is on the rise. Yet, the indisputable fact that a single nuclear explosion would cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences cannot be ignored. Less than six months from the 50th anniversary of the NPT and the 2020 Review Conference, there are few signs that we are diverging from this dangerous trajectory.

The NPT remains the main avenue as we seek ways to break the stalemate in multilateral nuclear diplomacy. Preparations must now enter a more concrete phase.

Chair,

The Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament, launched on 11 June this year, strives to mobilize momentum for an ambitious yet realistic outcome of the Review Conference and beyond, through a stepping stones approach.

In close dialogue with nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, our group of 16 countries seek to identify “actionable” Article VI-related measures. Potential areas include comprehensive risk-reduction measures, reducing the role of nuclear weapons in policies and doctrines and enhancing transparency on arsenals and fissile material stocks and verification.

Negative security assurances, CTBT entry into force and the launching of FMCT negotiations are other long-standing items on the agenda – obviously, they all have Sweden’s continued full support. It is imperative that there is no backtracking on previous commitments of NPT Review Conferences, in particular in 1995, 2000 and 2010.

Chair,

Multilateral disarmament bodies are prevented from fulfilling their mandates - the long-standing deadlock of the Conference on Disarmament being a
depressing case in point. It is essential that we safeguard and strengthen the rules-based international order.

In this regard, current arms control regimes must remain in place as safety nets while negotiations on potential future agreements are ongoing.

The proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction is another area threatening regional and global stability. Further development of the Hague Code of Conduct and its mechanism could be one way forward.

Chair,

Progress in the disarmament and the non-proliferation areas are mutually reinforcing. We strongly encourage more nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states to engage in the field of disarmament verification, through initiatives like the IPNDV and QUAD.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation remains a top foreign and security policy priority of Sweden. We urge all States to do everything in their power to safeguard existing mechanisms and engage constructively to enable much needed progress in these areas, in line with our collective goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. Time is of the essence.

Thank you.