Mr. Chair,

Norway has on a number of occasions stressed the need for new measures to sustain the NPT. We agree that the NPT suffers from an institutional deficit. This has to be addressed in various ways.

One possible approach is to take a critical look at how the Review Process is functioning. There cannot be any doubt that the 2005 Review Process did not live up to expectations.

In this light, my delegation has sympathy to the idea of introducing annual meetings of States Parties. Such meetings could consider the operation of the NPT in general, focus on particular issues, and not least address matters of particular concern such as issues of non-compliance. Annual meetings should, however, not undermine the authority and statutory role of the UN Security Council or the IAEA.

My delegation also hopes it would be possible to discuss other ways to strengthen the institutional machinery of the NPT, such as enhanced secretariat support and the possible setting up of a standing bureau.

Mr. Chair,

In the previous Review Process a number of States Parties called for the introduction of new disincentives against withdrawal from the Treaty. My delegation views it as vital to continue these deliberations. Withdrawal from the NPT is a serious matter and should be addressed in that way by the international community.

At the same time my delegation would like to underline the need for positive incentives to remain within the NPT. One incentive, collective security, is obvious and has been in place for nearly 40 years. Yet, we could consider other steps to raise the threshold from leaving the NPT. My delegation looks forward to discussing such issues in the Review Process.