Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, as I take the floor for the first time, allow me on behalf of the delegation of Ukraine to congratulate you on the assumption of this executive position. We look forward to fruitful discussions to prepare useful recommendations on nuclear disarmament and security assurances.

While aligning with the statement of the European Union delivered on Monday, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Despite ever changing international circumstances, the NPT has retained its value over the past 50 years. In November 1994, Ukraine demonstrated a proactive approach and set a pattern to follow by abandoning its nuclear capability and acceding to the NPT.

At the same time we have to acknowledge that, regrettably, the credibility and efficiency of one of the key pillars of the NPT have been seriously undermined. Brutal violation of the Budapest Memorandum by the nuclear-weapon state has damaged the whole UN-based security system. One can also recall in this context the obligation of nuclear states contained in 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document “to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances”.

Moreover, the Russian Federation seized Ukraine’s nuclear facilities, installations and materials, located in Crimea, which contradicts the IAEA Statute.

Quite disturbing is the evidence that the Russian Federation has deployed means of delivery of nuclear weapons and has been renovating relevant infrastructure on the Ukrainian soil in Crimea.

Such actions of the Russian Federation as a nuclear state pose a direct threat to the international regime established by the NPT, significantly undermine the tireless efforts of the international community toward Global Zero, as well as put at threat international security and provoke arms race globally. Especially now, when the global security landscape has already been considerably challenged, including by DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Ukraine, in this context, reiterates the importance of the UN Security Council resolution 2371.

Mr. Chairman,

Our country continues supporting the concept of negative security assurances (NSAs) as a practical element of reducing insecurity, which in most cases is considered to be one of the key motives for development of nuclear weapons capabilities.
Ukraine seeks the adoption of an international legally binding agreement that would, ultimately, replace the Budapest Memorandum. Such an agreement must provide direct and reliable guarantees of peace and security – up to military support in case of threat to territorial integrity. It should also include, among other things, provisions on the response procedure by the international community in case of encroachment of a nuclear state on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of a non-nuclear state.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly believe that complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament is the only guarantee of humanity's protection from the deadly consequences of possible use of nuclear weapons. However, there is no quick solution, and the recent Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is not an exception.

This goal requires a long-term approach with practical steps and effective disarmament measures to be taken by the international community in a transparent, non-discriminatory, verifiable and irreversible manner, building a system of mutually reinforcing instruments for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

Ukraine, in this regard, encourages the universalization of the CTBT with a view that its entry into force will constitute a tangible stride in attaining the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. As the current voluntary moratoriums on nuclear weapon tests are valuable, they are no substitute for a binding global ban.

The FMCT remains another top priority. The Ukrainian side strongly advocates for the immediate commencement of negotiations on the FMCT within the framework of the CD.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine attaches great importance to the worldwide implementation and continuous improvement of the highest standards of nuclear security.

Over the past four years Ukraine significantly improved and strengthened the national regime of physical protection of its facilities and materials by developing and introducing at all Ukrainian NPPs comprehensive plans of action in case of crisis situation.

In the framework of the global strategy against the proliferation of WMD, Ukraine supports and duly implements UN SC Resolution 1540 and the IAEA Additional Protocol, as well as actively contributes to international initiatives, such as the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the work of the Zangger Committee, Nuclear Suppliers Group and other relevant mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

While confronting current security challenges, our country remains firmly attached to its disarmament and non-proliferation choice and will do its utmost to further contribute to ensuring that this NPT review cycle will successfully mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty.

I thank you.