Draft NAC text for delivery in MCI SB 1 (SB1) at 10 am on Tuesday 5 May.

At the outset Mr Chairman may I pass on congratulations from the NAC – on whose behalf this statement is delivered - on your assumption of your important role. The NAC will be delighted to give you all assistance in fulfilling the very important mandate given to this Subsidiary Body.

You have said, Mr Chair, that today’s session should focus, above all, on actions 1 to 6 and 20 to 21 of the 2010 Action Plan. On these issues NAC makes the following points:

• The NAC recalls the need for full compliance with applicable international law, including IHL, and notes that our increased understanding of the risks, and catastrophic consequences, of any nuclear weapon detonation has significant implications for the assessment of nuclear weapons under the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. Our grave concern about the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons urges us to pursue – as our highest priority – progress on the implementation of the “effective measures” required by Article VI of the Treaty.

• In terms of action steps under the 2010 Action Plan, we note with regard to Action 2, that the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency remain essential to the implementation of Treaty obligations.

• On Action 3, the NAC stresses again the significance of the unequivocal undertakings of 2000 and 2010 given by the nuclear weapon states regarding the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The NAC expects the nuclear-weapon States to abide by their commitment to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons.

• The NAC notes, under Action 4, 5(a) and 5(b), the continued implementation by the Russian Federation and the United States of Start II. We would welcome more rapid movement towards an overall reduction in the global stockpile of all types of nuclear weapons.

• More generally, we note that Action 5 concludes with the statement that “the 2015 Review Conference will take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of Article VI”. In this regard, the NAC draws attention to its WP9 which outlines the legally effective measures that will enable the full implementation of the disarmament undertakings of Article VI. The New Agenda Coalition expects that the subsidiary body in Main Committee I devotes time to an exploration of the legal approaches capable of advancing “effective measures”.

• Still on Action 5 - (c) - the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security doctrines and policies must be significantly reduced. This applies both to Nuclear Weapon States and to those States in regional alliances that include Nuclear Weapon States.
• The NAC continues to strongly call on nuclear-weapon States to reduce the operational readiness of all nuclear weapons systems so that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status – this is Action 5 (e) and (f).

• The NAC regrets that, despite continued efforts again this year, it has not yet been possible to agree on a programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament. We attach particular priority to agreement on a Programme of Work that establishes a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament – our frame of reference is Action 6.

• With regard to Actions 20 and 21, the NAC firmly believes much more can and must be done by the Nuclear Weapon States in terms of their reporting. States parties must be confident that they have the information necessary to effectively monitor progress.

• Finally, Mr Chair, the NAC would like to draw your attention to the set of recommendations for the Conference presented on these and other issues by the NAC in WP8 and WP9.