Madam President,

CARICOM would like to contribute to this important discussion on the core prohibitions of this important treaty as we work towards ensuring a world free of nuclear weapons. We would like to see the broad application of the following core prohibitions that will be applied to all states parties to the treaty, without discrimination:

1. Possession
2. Production
3. Acquisition
4. Stockpiling
5. Development
6. Testing
7. Transfer and transit
8. Deployment
9. Any use at any time
10. Financing the use of or possession of nuclear weapons
11. Encouraging or assisting or inciting to engage of any of the other prohibited uses.

Madam President,

The case for the nuclear weapons ban treaty has driven by serious concerns regarding the humanitarian consequences of nuclear detonation. As a result CARICOM calls for the operative part of the treaty to include positive provisions that address human and environmental harms, recognize rights and offer remedial measures to victims. These provisions should include environmental remediation, risk education, victim/survivor assistance and stockpile destruction.

Nuclear weapons are a threat to humankind that knows no borders, as they threaten not only the countries that possess them, but the entire planet; hence, their prohibition is an imperative of global security. In order for a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons to be effective in leading towards their total and complete elimination, its core prohibitions must be clear, robust and ample. In this sense, we can learn from the experience of other legal instruments in this regard, such as our own regional experience with a prohibition of nuclear weapons with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, of which CARICOM States are proud members.