Madam Chair,

As regard the follow up to the the Programme of Action after the Review Conference, my Delegation fully subscribes to the statement pronounced by the European Union delegation earlier. Allow me, however, to present a short remark in a national capacity. In general, my Delegation supports the current structure of the follow-up mechanism, with global meetings every two years and a Review Conference every six.

We also welcome the proposals and the approach put forward by Japan for the next six-year cycle. My Delegation, therefore, could support further Meetings of Governmental Experts, provided that they are able to give an added value to the process and have a concrete mandate. These are times of financial restraints. We need to use our resources effectively. Meeting for the sake of meeting is no longer sufficient. Meetings need to have a clear mandate and should be able to deliver a concrete outcome. As a matter of fact, the Programme of Action as a whole should deliver concrete results. This is why we support the idea of establishing a system of benchmarks in order to assess the success of the PoA and its ability to fulfill its mandate.

Let me reiterate, Madam Chair, my Delegation full support to you during this meeting and at the Review Conference.

I thank you, Madam Chair.