Mr. Chairman,

First we would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee. Let us assure you of the full cooperation of the Latvian delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Latvia welcomes the historic agreement between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in conformity with the principles of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This demonstrates the power of joint diplomatic efforts of the international community. If implemented completely and in a timely manner, Latvia believes it will strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts in the long-term.

Mr. Chairman,

As the foundation stone of our approach to global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament Latvia would like to strongly underline the NPT. The NPT has driven us towards progress in the past in the three pillars of the Treaty - non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The overall goals of the three pillars of the Treaty are and will continue to be relevant. In the past Review Conferences of the Treaty Member States have agreed on complementing guidance documents, which dissect the overarching goals of the three pillars in more detail and give us somewhat concrete guidance on what steps should be taken. Of the outcome documents of NPT Review Conferences we would like to highlight the 2010 NPT Action Plan. It is substantive, balanced and extensive. The goals of the 2010 Action Plan are still relevant and can only be achieved through comprehensive implementation of the steps outlined in the plan. Latvia urges States to continue a step-by-step implementation of this plan. And here we would like to stress that a step-by-step approach does not mean that an action can be implemented only after another has been concluded. The process is dynamic and multi-dimensional.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe efforts must be dedicated not only to fostering the substantive implementation of the Treaty but also to strengthening the intersessional process of the NPT. While we understand that political factors contributed by large to the inability of reaching consensus on the outcome document of the 2015 Review Conference, a more effective intersessional process, perhaps, could contribute to dealing more effectively with substantive challenges in the future. Latvia believes there would be added value in discussing possible ways on strengthening the link between the Preparatory Committees and the Review Conference. A stronger intersessional link could help decreasing the accumulated
pressure in regard to the amount of substantive work to be carried out by the Review Conference at the end of a cycle.

As outlined above Latvia would support a discussion on strengthening the NPT intersessional process. We also support bilateral and multilateral efforts that advance the substantive goals of the NPT. These efforts include but are not limited to the P5 process, the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and others.

We place particular importance on the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. We also support the immediate commencement of negotiations on the Treaty Banning Production of Fissile Material, as well as in general – renewing multilateral efforts and negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion we would like to encourage current and possible future participating states to the NPT to bear in mind the past merits of the NPT and to continue step-by-step efforts to achieve the goals enshrined in the NPT in all of its three pillars. We strongly believe that a continued substantive and balanced implementation of the provisions of the NPT and its Action Plan of 2010, as well as work on confidence-building measures and transparency will eventually lead to the creation of a safer world with undiminished security for all.

Thank you.