Chairperson,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT. The Malaysian delegation stands ready to participate actively in the work of this PrepCom in laying the necessary foundation for a successful 2020 Review Cycle. You can be assured of Malaysia’s full support and cooperation.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statements delivered earlier by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Treaty and Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
Chairperson,

3. This PrepCom takes place at a critical juncture in the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. On one hand, this regime is being strained with the current global geo-strategic environment of tension and of nuclear risk. On the other hand, as the cornerstone of this regime, the 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of the Treaty and the 25\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary of its indefinite extension next year requires states to fulfil their responsibilities to the Treaty, through demonstrable commitments to the sanctity, integrity, and the objects and purposes of the Treaty. In this respect, all States Parties need to reaffirm past commitments, present their efforts to fulfill those commitments and provide views on how to move forward. The international community needs to take advantage of the NPT Review Process to demonstrate that the global disarmament architecture is resilient and can still hold – despite recent challenges.

4. For Malaysia, the continued existence of nuclear weapons represents a serious threat to humanity. We maintain a principled position on general and complete disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear disarmament remains our highest priority. We firmly believe in the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only solution against the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
Chairperson,

5. All States Parties have the responsibility to implement their obligations under the NPT in a full, objective and balanced manner across the three pillars.

6. Nuclear Weapons States need to fulfil their Article VI obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament under strict control in a verifiable, irreversible and transparent manner.

7. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. Non-proliferation derives legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. Thus, emphasis on non-proliferation, while disregarding nuclear disarmament obligations, would be unsustainable and gravely detrimental to the NPT regime.

8. There is an inalienable right of States Parties to the NPT to have access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology as enshrined under Article IV. Malaysia is of the view that States with advanced expertise and technology in the field are obligated to facilitate access to these benefits. At the same time, all States must adhere to the
fundamental principles related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. States must exercise full transparency in their nuclear programmes, subject those programmes to the full scope of the IAEA safeguards, adhere to the provisions of the NPT, and gain the confidence and trust of the international community over the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes.

Chairperson,

9. While we call for balance on all three pillars, it is under the pillar of disarmament where progress has been slow, and where progress also seems to have been reversing.

10. Malaysia support efforts towards further elaborating the concept of nuclear weapons risk reduction and to explore multiple points to reduce the risk of a nuclear detonation.

11. The humanitarian consequences concept is indispensable to nuclear disarmament discourse, and due consideration to this concept must also be emphasized.
12. Malaysia is convinced that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons complements the NPT and the global disarmament regime. The TPNW constitutes an effective legal measure under Article VI of the NPT. We are cognizant that a few countries are opposed to this Treaty, and we call on them to consider and engage on this instrument which an overwhelming number of States support.

13. Malaysia supports all efforts that can bring us closer to a nuclear free world. These efforts and discussions however should not divert attention from the main objectives of a world free of nuclear weapons, to disregard past commitments, nor to shirk Article VI obligations.

14. Malaysia reiterates the importance of bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force. We call upon all Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.

15. Malaysia is deeply concerned with the suspension of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. We continue to value the importance of constructive dialogue, engagement and trust-building between the concerned parties towards preservation and strengthening of the Treaty. It is our hope that the both the United States and Russia will reaffirm their bilateral commitment pertaining to arms control measures,
including the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). Close cooperation between the United States and Russia in arms control and reductions has a direct correlation with making breakthroughs in the NPT sphere.

Chairperson

16. Malaysia fully recognizes the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the sole competent authority responsible for verification of the fulfillment of safeguard obligations assumed by States Parties under the NPT. The Agency plays an indispensable role as the global focal point for nuclear technical cooperation. Malaysia commends the extensive work undertaken by the IAEA, in particular the verification under JCPOA, as well as the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

17. Malaysia fully supports the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZs) as they promote greater transparency and dialogue among States regionally, and obliquely reduce the risk of regional tensions and conflicts, thus strengthening peace and security. It is also imperative that Nuclear Weapon States provide unconditional assurances against use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States within NWFZs.
18. As a party to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Malaysia is firmly committed to the full and effective implementation of the Treaty. We believe in the value of engagement, to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of SEANWFZ.

19. Malaysia calls upon the Nuclear Weapon States to ratify related protocols to all treaties establishing nuclear weapon-free zones, withdraw any reservations or interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose, and respect the denuclearization status of these zones.

20. Malaysia reaffirms the significance and relevance of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and welcomes the decision adopted at the United Nations General Assembly last year for the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the Conference on the Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone later in November.

21. Malaysia also reaffirms the importance of appointing the President of the 2020 Review Conference as soon as possible to allow the preparatory work for the Conference to commence.
Chairperson,

22. As we approach the 2020 Review Conference, let us all be resolute and strengthen our resolve in fulfilling our collective obligations, honouring our commitments and striving for progress through this august platform of the Third Preparatory Committee. Malaysia stands ready to work closely with all States Parties in ensuring the success of the 2020 review cycle, as well as realising our shared, longstanding endeavour of a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Chairperson.