In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

Mr. Chairman,
I associate my delegation with the NAM statement.

Nuclear weapons constitute the greatest threat to international peace and security as well as the survival of humankind. In order to remove this threat, there is no alternative other than their total elimination. This is the only absolute guarantee against their threat or use.

That is why nuclear disarmament, as a central obligation, is one of the NPT’s key objectives. Under its Article VI, as unanimously decided by the ICJ, “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”. This is an explicit legal obligation with no ambiguity or conditionality.

However, non-compliance of nuclear-weapon States with Article VI over the past 50 years, as well as the new nuclear arms race and nuclear arms modernization race, unfortunately leave no room for even a least promising prospect towards nuclear disarmament.

The current deadlock on nuclear disarmament is largely the result of the U.S. aggressive nuclear posturing which emphasizes the utility of retaining nuclear weapons indefinitely; advocates the first use of such weapons, threatens their use against non-nuclear-weapons States; pursues the development of new types of low-yield nuclear
weapons to use them in regional conflict; and plans to spend $1.2 trillion in 30 years on a tremendous build-up and modernization of nuclear arsenal.

This provocative and irresponsible policy, which has renewed the nuclear arms race, is a material breach by the U.S. of its obligations under the NPT. It presents the gravest threat to the NPT and the objective of nuclear disarmament.

The INF Treaty is among the latest victims of unilateralism by the U.S. and its "doctrine of withdrawal from international instruments and institutions". The U.S. has seriously disrupted the basis for bilateral nuclear reductions and impeded the international nuclear disarmament process.

During the 2020 Review Conference, we should strongly reject such U.S. concepts as the CCND that aims to create conditionality for nuclear disarmament obligations under article VI and to reinterpret its provisions as well as the nuclear disarmament related obligations agreed upon at the previous Conferences. We must vigorously follow our own CCND: Comprehensive Convention on Nuclear Disarmament.

Therefore, building upon the related agreements achieved in the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Conferences, the Preparatory Committee should recommend the following:

Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons;

Underlining that continued reliance on nuclear deterrence and the assumption that nuclear weapons would be maintained indefinitely is unacceptable;

Reaffirming the urgent need for nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to in the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences;

Committing all nuclear-weapon States to refrain from pursuing policies inconsistent with their obligations under article VI of the Treaty, and in this context, completely and immediately cease all of their modernization plans;

Committing all nuclear-weapon States to end the deployment of nuclear weapons outside of their territories;

Committing to deep and verifiable reductions in, and elimination of, non-strategic nuclear weapons;

Committing to the commencement of urgent negotiations and early conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention in the Conference on Disarmament.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.