Mr. Chairperson,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the NPT. Malaysia also endorses the working papers submitted by NAM and the De-alerting Group under this cluster.

Mr. Chairperson,

2. This Third PrepCom should make progress towards a successful 2020 review cycle. We should take stock of what we have accomplished to address the objectives and purposes of the NPT. Our priority must be to strengthen the implementation of the treaty. We must uphold and preserve its role as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. States Parties have to also preserve the treaty as a key multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability.

3. Nuclear disarmament must remain a key priority of the international agenda. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Honest political will is needed to achieve this goal. Attempts to distract the international community from this goal undermines the treaty.

4. The goal of nuclear disarmament is enshrined under Article VI. Nuclear disarmament remains a serious shortcoming in the fulfilment of the objective and purpose of the NPT. There have been reductions in nuclear arsenals over time, but approximately 15,000 nuclear weapons remain in existence today, 15,000 weapons too many. Nuclear weapons remain part of military and security doctrines. Weapons continue to be modernised. New weapons are being developed. And nuclear deterrence remains a defining characteristic for some.
5. Twenty three years ago, the ICJ, in its Advisory Opinion, on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, had unanimously concluded that 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. Therefore, the obligation under Article VI must continue to be accorded the highest priority. It must be pursued earnestly, by all States, particularly those possessing nuclear weapons.

6. Dismal progress by Nuclear Weapon States in fulfilling Article VI obligations over the years underscored the need for a new impetus. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is a reflection of that. Malaysia is strongly convinced that the TPNW complements and strengthens the NPT. It closes the legal gap. It provides pathways of entry for all States, including Nuclear Weapon States. It cannot be ignored. All States need to engage on it. And in doing so, States would be doing justice and rejuvenate the stagnated nuclear disarmament process.

Mr. Chairperson,

7. In addition to multilateral arms control instruments, bilateral arms control treaties also play an important role towards advancing nuclear disarmament. Malaysia expresses grave concern that bilateral arms reduction agreements are currently at risk as a result of geopolitical tensions. The current situation surrounding the INF Treaty is a global concern. It harms the international security and nuclear disarmament architecture. We call on the relevant parties to address mutual concerns through diplomatic means, and to extend or conclude new arms control agreements in the interest of international peace and security.

8. With the NPT as the foundation, States Parties should work together on strengthening the global disarmament architecture, including the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the need to commence negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

9. Malaysia supports all efforts that can bring us closer to a nuclear free world. Such efforts have to be genuine. Discussion on these efforts 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.

10. Malaysia emphasises the urgent action required to fully implement commitments and undertakings agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. We recognise that while some targets may be technically unfeasible at this point in time, this in no way diminishes their value, and we call on all states to provide detailed reporting on the fulfilment of those commitments. Malaysia also believes that our discussions should focus on ways to universalise the NPT. In this regard, we wish to reiterate the call for states remaining outside the NPT regime to immediately accede to the treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

11. To conclude, nuclear disarmament must remain our common goal and a major determinant in achieving and sustaining international peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.