

Madam President,

Slovenia continues to believe that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, and the essential foundation for progress towards nuclear disarmament and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are in favour of balanced progress in all three pillars of the Treaty. The principle of balanced progress should guide us throughout this Review Conference towards adoption of the Outcome Document. It should be based upon achievements of the 2010 Review Conference, and should take us further in our endeavours. Success of this Conference is vital for the future of the Treaty itself.

Regarding nuclear disarmament, we agree with those who expected more progress since the last NPT Review Conference. In this context, Slovenia continues to share the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe in a treaty-based disarmament. All future global endeavours for nuclear disarmament need to be encompassed in the framework of the Treaty. That is why we advocate approach to global nuclear disarmament through an universalisation of the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the commencement and early

Madam President,

Before I conclude, allow me to touch upon two issues that will be widely debated in the course of next three weeks.

Firstly, we regret that the **Conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East** has not been convened yet, as agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference five years ago. Slovenia commends and supports tireless efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland, and encourages him to continue his efforts. We also encourage all states of the region to engage with Ambassador Laajava and find proper solutions regarding the agenda of the Conference that will contribute to more confidence and trust in the region.

Secondly, regarding the issue of **humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons**, allow me to state that Slovenia attended all three conferences in the framework of this initiative in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. It is clear that we all need to work to prevent nuclear detonations and explosions, incidental or on purpose, because of their potential