Election for chair of the NPT PrepCom

Statement

Ministers, Ms. High Representative, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Guests, Dear Colleagues,

- I wish to thank all of the state parties for this honor and continued trust in me, now as the elected chair for the first preparatory committee of the eleventh review cycle.

- Since assuming the position of chair-designate last autumn, I have engaged in consultations with the state parties, international organisations, and civil society both virtually and in-person in New York, Vienna and Geneva. I will continue to perform my role in an open, impartial and transparent manner.

- On behalf of all the States parties as well as on my own behalf, I wish to extend my gratitude to the secretariat for all the preparations taken to organize the PrepCom.

- I thank you all for the successful work with working group last week. Let us continue in the spirit of openness, collegiality and strong will to uphold the NPT.

- Exceptionally, the first Preparatory Committee meeting of the eleventh review cycle takes place less than a year after the tenth Review Conference. If anything, the world is in a worse state than last August, which undoubtedly will affect the deliberations. In the face of such challenges, we must work persistently to strengthen the position of the NPT as the corner stone of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and an essential element of international peace and security.

- Many States parties have expressed their wish for the first PrepCom to lay a positive and constructive foundation for the upcoming review cycle. Simultaneously, it is evident that there are great differences in States parties’ views on certain questions.

- I believe that through frank and honest dialogue with good faith and mutual respect we can lay a good foundation for the review cycle. Our aim should be on the whole review cycle. Once we clearly understand state parties’ positions, we can start trying finding common ground and ways to bridge disagreements.

- Once again, I thank you for your trust. I look forward for all of us to set a solid base for the eleventh review cycle of NPT.