Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEAN aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. We extend our congratulations to Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen and his bureau on their election in this First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We have full confidence in Ambassador Viinanen's capable leadership, and we look forward substantive outcomes from this committee.

Mr. Chair,

3. ASEAN shares concerns over the declining commitment and cooperation in global disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control mechanisms. We emphasize the critical importance of all countries, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), maintaining and fully implementing their obligations and commitments under these mechanisms, including the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The full and effective implementation of the NPT, across its three pillars, remains imperative. We call upon the NWS to fulfill their obligations in advancing nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and to recognize the imperative of completely eliminating nuclear weapons. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used again under any circumstances.

4. ASEAN reiterates its commitment to preserving the Southeast Asian region as a NWFZ and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty. We stress the utmost importance of the full and effective implementation of the Treaty. We would like to share with Delegations that the Executive Committee of the SEANWFZ Commission is continuing to explore the possibility of allowing individual NWS which are willing to sign and ratify the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations and provide prior formal assurance of this commitment in writing to go ahead with the signing. We welcome any NWS that are ready to do so. We remain committed to continuously engage all Nuclear Weapon States including those with reservations, and intensify efforts of all parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

_Nuclear Disarmament_

5. ASEAN deplores nuclear tests and renews its call for universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We urge all remaining Annex 2 States to promptly sign and ratify the CTBT to facilitate its entry into
force. ASEAN Member States have already ratified the CTBT, emphasizing our commitment to nuclear disarmament.

6. ASEAN also recognizes that the dangers of nuclear testing continue to be of utmost concern. Therefore, the situation in all regions that underwent nuclear test explosions shall not be forgotten. We encourage the international community to assist these regions.

7. It is crucial for the NWS to adhere to legally binding negative security assurances and adopt a no-first-use policy regarding nuclear weapons, as well as to reduce and eliminate the risk of unintentional and accidental use of such weapons, pending the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Additionally, the NWS must make an unequivocal commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) and within nuclear-weapon-free zones.

8. ASEAN also calls on the NWS to fulfill all of their nuclear disarmament obligations and emphasizes the need for them to be accountable through benchmarks, concrete, measurable, timebound actions on nuclear disarmament with established deadlines, and to report their implementation of their obligations until the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons is achieved, in a structured and standardized manner that allows NNWS to engage constructively on their reports.

9. We call upon all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the full implementation of the Treaty, particularly Article VI. We urge all parties to engage in good faith and work towards the success of the 2026 Review Conference and its preparatory meetings.
Non-proliferation

10. ASEAN remains fully committed to international efforts on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. We strongly support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as stipulated in Article VII of the NPT. These zones are instrumental in achieving nuclear disarmament in maintaining international peace and security. We continue to support ongoing efforts towards establishing such zones globally, including in the Middle East.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

11. ASEAN recognizes the inalienable right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for their socio-economic development. We acknowledge the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and emphasize the need to strengthen the agency's capacity.

12. ASEAN will continue expanding cooperation with the IAEA, particularly through the implementation of the 2019 Practical Arrangements on Cooperation. We commend the progress made and the annual meetings held by the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). We stress the importance of continued adherence to nuclear safety and security obligations in accordance with applicable IAEA standards and regulations.

13. In line with the foregoing, ASEAN supports the full and effective implementation of other relevant efforts, including Security Council
Resolution 1540 and the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament.

14. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, ASEAN underscores the utmost importance of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call upon all Member States to strengthen partnerships and work collectively towards a world free of nuclear weapons. By fostering an environment of trust and inclusivity, with the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, we can ensure global security and prosperity for all.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.