Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I am privileged and honoured to address this conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova. Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your appointment as the President of the 10th Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference. I would like to assure you of my delegation’s full support and I wish you every success in leading the work of this Review Conference towards the expected and consensual outcome.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. At the same time, I would like to highlight a few points in my national capacity.

Regrettably, today’s meeting is taking place at a very challenging period in our modern history. Russian Federation’s unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine is a tragedy for millions of people and affects the security and stability far beyond our region. The Republic of Moldova has strongly condemned this war from the first day, reaffirming its full support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

The military activities in and around Ukraine’s nuclear sites, including the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone and Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant have been causing major concern from the very first days of the war and continue to pose a great risk for the entire continent.
In this sense, the Republic of Moldova takes this opportunity to reaffirm the centrality of the NPT in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. From this perspective, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of NPT universalization with the view to pursue nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as per Article VI of the treaty, in good faith and in a rules-based international system.

While reaffirming its commitment to the foremost objectives of the NPT to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, the Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to the strict compliance with the NPT. At the national level, the Republic of Moldova also undertakes all necessary measures to prevent possible transfers through its territory of any components, materials and technology related to weapons of mass destruction. Active engagement and co-operation with other countries and relevant international and regional organizations offers the opportunity to use and apply the expertise and best practices in this field and effectively contributes to the prevention and combating of illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova believes that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and contributes towards realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this vein, we reiterate the urgent need to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and encourage countries of the Middle East to continue dialogue in this regard.

We also urge the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, to return at an early date to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement with a view to achieving the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

Mr. President,

Since the last review conference, we have gone through an extremely vulnerable and challenging period. We have not managed to agree on many essential for nuclear disarmament issues. However, our common objective remains clear and unchangeable - promotion of a strong commitment of all NPT States Parties to fully observe the obligations under the Treaty that would create a conducive international environment for risk reduction. Therefore, I would like to express my Government strong support for the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament
that stipulates that “full implementation of the Treaty, including the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, remains the best way to eliminate nuclear risks”. We fully agree that “the Review Conference should also take practical steps towards a reduction of nuclear risks as part of broader disarmament efforts, notably calling for regular, in-depth, structured dialogues among nuclear-weapon States as well as all States Parties on specific risk reduction measures.”

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, we hope that the Conference will manage to overpass the existing divergences and will contribute to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promotion of co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the aim of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

Thank you.