Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Brazilian delegation congratulates you, Ambassador Hasrin, on your assumption of the chairmanship of this third PrepCom. Be assured of Brazil’s full cooperation as we strive to develop substantive and consensus-oriented recommendations for the current review cycle of the NPT.

We are approaching the 50th Anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT – a landmark moment not to be wasted or misused. The NPT’s X Review Conference will give us an opportunity to assess the Treaty’s health and status in the current deteriorating international security environment.

Let’s consider whether we can still agree to further the implementation of the NPT in a manner that achieves the Treaty’s purposes and objectives across its three pillars, in particular the disarmament one, which has been the Achilles’ heel of the NPT regime.

Let’s put treaty members’ engagement with the review process and the treaty itself to the test, against the backdrop of a global security landscape undermined by allegations of non-compliance and the abandonment of key arms control agreements and commitments, especially by the major powers, which should be setting the example.

Some of us bask in the notion of the NPT as a great success, in the sense that since its entry into force only four countries outside the purview of the treaty have acquired nuclear weapons. In the view of Brazil, this is four countries too many.

Furthermore, after much-welcomed reductions in nuclear weapon arsenals from peak numbers of the heyday of the Cold War, progress in disarmament efforts by Nuclear-
Weapon States has come to a grinding halt. These States are now reversing course, by displaying an alarming urge to modernize, expand and increase the role of nuclear weapons in their national defense policies and security doctrines.

And we should not take for granted the remarkable success achieved so far in the non-proliferation pillar. The greater the perception that the disarmament and arms-control regime is dysfunctional and that international and regional security environments are no longer safe, the greater the risk of further proliferation.

As NPT members, we are all obligated to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith and have taken an oath to work towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. These are not optional commitments, but the foundational bargain that gave life to the NPT in the first place.

We must not forget that the NPT grand bargain was also predicated upon the awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, as recognized in the very first preambular paragraph of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is supported and complemented by a tapestry of bilateral, regional and multilateral treaties. This network of instruments must be preserved, reinforced and expanded.

As an exemplary Non-Nuclear Weapon State, Brazil has been doing its part in this regard.

We ratified the CTBT more than 20 years ago, while other Annex II States still refuse to do so.

We have contributed technically and substantively towards the negotiation of a Fissile Materials Treaty, including by presenting in 2010 a proposal to the CD on a framework agreement approach. In the context of the group of governmental experts on nuclear disarmament verification convened in the last and current year, Brazil also put forward a proposal for the establishment under the auspices of the CD of a group of scientific and technical experts on nuclear disarmament verification.

Most recently, we took active part in the successful negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the TPNW. This landmark Treaty, which is supported by an overwhelming majority of UN Member States, is fully compatible with the NPT and further reinforces its three pillars, in particular the obligations set by its Article VI.

While the TPNW will not bring about the elimination of nuclear weapons on its own, it has significantly raised the moral barrier against these weapons, thus further reducing their value from a political and strategic standpoint.
For those few States that insist in antagonizing the TPNW, it should be reminded that the Treaty will not stand in the way of any serious alternative efforts on their part to pursue nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the pillars of non-proliferation and peaceful uses, it should be recalled that Brazil and Argentina have jointly built a unique relationship of cooperation and mutual trust, underpinned by the work of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Material (ABACC). This innovative arrangement still stands today as an example for other regions.

Brazil is developing, also in partnership with Argentina, a Multipurpose Reactor, which will greatly increase domestic capabilities for both research and the production of isotopes. Brazil is also developing its first nuclear-powered submarine, in full consistency with its NPT obligations and safeguards agreements with both ABACC and the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

This Committee has the responsibility to make recommendations to the coming RevCon. Chief among those is the appointment of Ambassador Rafael Grossi of Argentina as its chairman, an issue that regrettably has been artificially delayed by issues that bear no relation with the work of this body. From a substantive point of view, we must reiterate our past commitments, in particular those agreed to by consensus in 1995, 2000 and 2010, and seek to address current concerns through actionable measures.

As we approach the 2020 NPT RevCon under very unfavorable circumstances, we agree that a renewed comprehensive dialogue on disarmament is in order. The goal of this dialogue should be a joint assessment of today’s current nuclear strategic stability and risk factors, and to consider what relevant next steps we can take towards a world without nuclear weapons. The structuring of an inclusive dialogue on disarmament, based on our shared obligations and past commitments, is a deliverable for the current review cycle of the NPT that Brazil is in a position to support and contribute to.

We urge all States Parties to work together in this PrepCom and in the coming Review Conference in a constructive and compromising spirit to collectively find a way forward.

Passively acknowledging a deteriorating status quo will do very little to advance the cause of disarmament, peace and security.

Thank you.