Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the Austrian Government for hosting the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

We fully understand and also share the concerns expressed at many previous occasions over the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. It is also the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference that articulated those concerns and reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with both their commitments and applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

We are aware that the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons would be devastating and unmanageable. Averting the risk of nuclear weapon detonation is in the interest of all mankind. We therefore support efforts to achieve real progress in nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons.

However, we are of the view that the longstanding objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be achieved only under certain conditions. The effective functioning of the non-proliferation regime on a global scale coupled with a robust verification regime that could provide assurances of irreversibility of nuclear disarmament are indispensable for a world without nuclear weapons. Therefore, we stress the need to faithfully implement all steps agreed in the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Only by pursuing the concept of “building blocks” and step-by-step disarmament approach could we make progress towards achieving the so called Global Zero.

Achieving and maintaining the shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons will require all states working together. Because simply banning nuclear weapons - without engaging substantively and constructively all nuclear-weapon states - will not guarantee their elimination. Moreover, the Czech Republic, along with its allies, considers the reality of the international security environment such that leaves no room for re-assessing our current commitments, including the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

It is our belief that the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, the universal adherence to the Treaty, creation of a truly effective verification mechanism for nuclear disarmament process and also entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty would create conditions for achieving our common objective. We hope that awareness of the horrific impact of any use of nuclear weapons, as clearly shared at this conference, will serve as an additional motivation for States in this regard.

In our view, the most important challenge of 2015 in disarmament agenda will be the Review Conference of Non-Proliferation Treaty. We should concentrate on the review process in order to achieve positive outcome in all three pillars of the Treaty, including nuclear disarmament.

Thank you for your attention.