Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

I would like first of all to thank the Austrian government for hosting the Third Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Vienna. This is a good opportunity to focus on common ground and shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons while taking account of various views of participants, which we hope will be fairly reflected in the Chairman’s Summary.

We have followed very carefully the evolution of the paradigm of catastrophic humanitarian consequences from the use of nuclear weapons and we have participated in previous conferences that took place in Norway and Mexico treating this very issue. While sharing concerns of diverse nuclear risks and their serious impact on humanity, we believe that achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons requires common ground by identifying concrete and practical “building blocks” for that shared goal. To this end Estonia subscribed to the views put forward in the working paper "Building Blocks for a World without Nuclear Weapons”, submitted by a group of 20 states to the NPT Preparatory Committee this year. Mutually reinforcing “building blocks” are multilateral, bilateral or unilateral measures going on in parallel, thus complementing the “step by step” approach. There are no short cuts to achieve responsible and effective nuclear disarmament, taking into account the prevailing challenging international environment.

We are convinced that multilateral nuclear disarmament processes need to be inclusive, particularly through the involvement of States possessing nuclear weapons. Building a climate of confidence and trust will be essential to ensure these inclusive processes. Such trust must be built through demonstrated implementation of concrete disarmament measures by all States possessing nuclear weapons, as well as ongoing commitment to non-proliferation by all non-nuclear-weapon States.

We recognise that the NPT is a unique and irreplaceable multilateral instrument and the cornerstone for progress towards nuclear disarmament and we join our voice with those who encourage all states to contribute constructively to strengthening of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the NPT, while dealing with diverse nuclear risks.

I thank you.