STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. SABINE BOHLKE-MOLLER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA, DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PREPCOM) FOR THE 2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you on your assumption as Chairperson of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the State Parties of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). I also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election, and commend your predecessor H.E Ambassador Henk Cor Van der Kwasi of the Netherlands, for his hard work as Chair of the 2017 PrepCom.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The Three Pillars of the NPT are mutually reinforcing and are essential instruments to strengthening international peace and security. Namibia wishes to stress that nuclear disarmament should remain a priority on the Agenda of this PrepCom. We once again renew our strong call upon the nuclear weapons states to fully comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay, in a transparent, irreversible and international verifiable manner.

The failure to reach consensus on the final document at the 9th NPT Review Conference, is a reminder to all of us to redouble our efforts and to reaffirm our strong commitment to the Treaty in order achieve a successful 2020 Review Conference.

Namibia remains a committed State Party to the African Nuclear Weapons Free-Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty), which provides a shield for Africa by preventing the stationing of nuclear explosive devices on the continent and prohibiting testing of those destructive weapons on the continent.

In the same vein, Namibia joins those who are calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon -free-zone in the Middle East, and expresses concern over the fact the consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, have not been implemented.
The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is essential in curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. Namibia therefore believes that it is important to strive for the early entry into force of the CTBT, in order further strengthen the verification regime, which will significantly contribute to the enhancement of International Peace and Security. We therefore call upon the Annex II States to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

We reaffirm that Nuclear Disarmament is highest priority, and remain concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible testing, use or threat of use. The situation in the realm of nuclear disarmament continues to be characterized by impasse, as Nuclear –Weapons States have not made progress in eliminating nuclear weapons.

Any use of nuclear weapons is in violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. The total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again is the only unqualified assurance against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from the use of such weapons.

We reiterate the need for all States to comply with international law applicable in this area, including international humanitarian law. Measures and initiatives taken should be within the framework of international law and should contribute to the promotion of international peace and security.

We continue to express our deep concern over the lack of progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments by the Nuclear Weapons States. We once again call them to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant obligations under the NPT.

Namibia welcomes the historic adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, on 7 July 2017. It is our considered view that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will not undermine the NPT, but will rather complement and strengthen it. Being mindful of the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, we believe that full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is imperative to the guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons also by ensuring their total elimination. Namibia has signed the important Treaty and is in the process of finalizing its ratification.

We also wish to underscore the importance of the peaceful application of nuclear technology for sustainable development, and stress that the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in meeting the needs of its Member States in pursuit technology for peaceful uses of
nuclear energy shall not be subjected to any conditions that are not compatible to the IAEA Statute.

Namibia further wishes to reiterate its support for the Joint Plan of Action (JCPOA), between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the E3/EU+3. We call upon the parties to this agreement to honour their responsibility by abiding to the latter and spirit of the JCPOA.

Finally, we wish to highlight that multilateral disarmament negotiations will achieve tangible results if and when we can generate the necessary political will to support the process.