Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

For the past two weeks we have had a thorough review of the implementation of the Treaty. We were able to resolve all procedural issues pertaining to this session and to provide a good starting point for the next PrepCom. We discussed current political topics, critical for the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. From time to time we disagreed on substance, but there were also many practical proposals that enriched our discussion and provided us with fresh food-for-thought on how to realize the Treaty’s objectives better and more thoroughly. We now have better insights about our positions and motivations, which is an important asset in view of the 2020 Review Conference. Many delegations provided very concrete contributions, thus showing their strong NPT credentials. We also had a good discussion about the strengthening of the review process.

This session had its ups and downs. From time to time we felt the pain, but I hope nobody suffered. Differences aside, States parties have reaffirmed the continued high value they place upon the Treaty and the collective benefits it provides. I trust this same sense of common purpose will be maintained through the entirety of the review cycle.

I said in the beginning that I had been studying and travelling a lot during the year preceding the session to learn about your positions, your motivations and your concerns. Today, as we are closing the session, I have an unmistakable feeling that it was worth the effort! This new habit of reaching out to the regional groups and individual States parties ahead of the session proper gives us all, the Chair included, more feeling of ownership of the review process.
We have 10 busy but I hope also rewarding days behind us. I want to thank all the distinguished delegates for their dedication, discipline and endurance. Although the 2020 Review Conference is an anniversary conference, this PrepCom was all but about celebrations. I regard it as our joint achievement that we managed to discuss all relevant topics across all three clusters, maintained almost all the time constructive business-like atmosphere and managed to stick to the schedule, which has not always been the case. We have had less states participating this time than in the last PrepCom. However this was by far out-weighted by the number and the quality of interventions!

The election of Ambassador Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Jaakob to the Chair of the third Preparatory Committee is also an important contribution of the session, further consolidating the cumulative consensus building of this review cycle. I hope that the President of the Review Conference can also be nominated without further delay. This would allow inter alia to complete the establishment of the Conference Bureau.

In my assessment, the output of the Second Preparatory Committee constitutes a useful building block for a successful Review Conference in 2020.

Before concluding the meeting I would like to extend my thanks to His Excellency, Ambassador Robbert Gabrielese, deputy Chair and member of the Bureau, for assisting me in chairing meetings during the session. Without him I would not be able to conduct the many consultations and to finalize the draft factual summary on time. I express my appreciation also for other Dutch colleagues who tirelessly supported me personally as well as my colleagues from the Polish Delegation.

I would also like to extend, on behalf of the States parties participating in the Preparatory Committee, my sincere thanks to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Director General of the IAEA, as well as the Executive Secretary of CTBTO for their valuable support to my endeavours.

I wish also to thank the Secretariat of the Conference, in particular Mr. Ioan Tudor, Secretary of the NPT PrepCom, his colleagues from the UN in New York and Geneva, the IAEA team, the interpreters, the conference services, conference room officers
and document officers, the security officers, and the many more secretariat staff working behind the scenes to assist us during our work. Their patience, cooperation and highly professional assistance is much appreciated.

Last but definitely not least, I wish to thank my colleagues from the Polish Delegation for the enormous effort they have put in to prepare for, and to facilitate the work of the PrepCom. This was a real team effort for which I am extremely grateful to them.

I am now handing over the baton to my Malaysian colleague. I am sure that I leave further preparations for the Review Conference in competent hands. I am offering, of course, my humble services to him in the framework of the Conference Bureau and I am already looking forward to working with him and his team.

In this context, let me finish my intervention by quoting a great leader of the free world, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill who said: “Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts”.

This brings us to the end of the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

The session is closed.