Mr. President,

First of all, let me congratulate Austria and you, Mr. President, personally, on the assumption of this important function and wish you a positive outcome of your Presidency. Thank you also for your inspiring introductory speech.

Let me also command, the preceding, Australian Presidency for its efforts to keep - despite pandemic situation – the disarmament issues vivid.

We highly value P-6 and P-6 +2 cooperation. This is exactly how the efforts around the CD should be consolidated, especially in the current circumstances.

I would like also to address warm words of welcome to the new ambassadors of Argentina, Republic of Korea and Tunisia.

Mr. President,

75th anniversary of the United Nations and 50th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation make this year exceptional, also for disarmament. We believe that we will be able to come back to substantial and topical debate in the CD when pandemic situation will allow, most probably at the beginning of the next year. Since we have now, in fact, only several weeks at our disposal, it is quite obvious that there is no possibility to start a structured and substantial work of the CD.

We, therefore, think that it would be wise to use this opportunity for discussion and reflection on different aspects of disarmament, including space issues and new technologies as it was also stated by ambassadors of Argentina and the UK.

We also believe that addressing the organizational aspects of the Conference will be beneficial for the CD and will serve future goal of commencing negotiations.

In conclusion, let me assure you, Mr. President, of our full support and cooperation.

I thank you,