Mr. Chair,

We congratulate You and the members of the Bureau on your election and express our full support and cooperation.

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and offers the following in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Nuclear disarmament is an important element of global efforts to strengthen peace and security. Azerbaijan supports all multilateral efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, towards making the world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear dangers.

International cooperation has always been the centerpiece of our efforts in the field of nuclear security and safety. Recognizing and commending the key role of the IAEA in developing nuclear security regulations and standards, we have built a successful cooperation with the Agency on various aspects of nuclear security.

Due to proliferation challenges and our geographic location, Azerbaijan attaches particular importance to prevention of use of our territory as transit route for nuclear trafficking. In close cooperation with partners, we established a strong export control system that meets high international standards.

As one of the State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Azerbaijan remains committed to this cornerstone document and supports the implementation of all its three pillars in an effective, balanced and equitable manner. Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are mutually reinforcing and complementary to one another, thus enhancing cooperation in the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We look forward to the 10th NPT Review Conference and count on its successful outcome.

The primary purpose of conventional arms control and CSBM is to sustain peace and stability, giving effect to norms and principles of international law, in particular those related to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders. Strickt adherence to these principles along with implementation of politico-military commitments under relevant regional security arrangements, could enhance predictability and transparency and avoid aggravation of threat perception.

Persistent threats posed by excessive and destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of SALW and SCA continue to pose threat to security and stability, as well as safety of civilians. The
full implementation of commitments of relevant international documents and practical steps in this regard are necessary to tackle these threats. We believe that work of relevant regional organizations should complement UN-led international efforts in this sphere, including through the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its Aspects. We also note that prevention of the illicit transfer and diversion of SALW and SCA could be an important element for rehabilitation, reintegration and peace-building in post-conflict contexts.

Mr. Chair,

On 27 September 2020 in response to Armenia’s yet another act of aggression, with involvement of mercenaries and FTFs, Azerbaijan undertook and successfully accomplished a counteroffensive operation, exercising its inherent right to self-defence, in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter and restored its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Intentional, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of military force by Armenia against densely populated Azerbaijani cities far outside the conflict zone, including a series of ruthless night-time missile strikes on residential areas, resulted in killing of 101 Azerbaijani civilians, including 12 children. Over 400 civilians were wounded, some 84,000 people were forced to leave their homes and almost 5,000 private houses, apartment buildings and other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged.

Azerbaijan consistently warned about Armenia’s military build-up in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, deployment of Armenia’s armed forces and large quantity of undeclared and uncontrolled armaments and military equipment, in violation of the CFE [ci-fi] Treaty and Vienna Document. Military equipment in excess of 5 billion US dollars belonging to the armed forces of Armenia that was destroyed or seized as trophies of war clearly exposed Armenia’s long-standing illegal practice, as well as its stubborn denial not only of its role as an aggressor and occupier, but even as a party to the conflict.

Despite cessation of hostilities, mines planted by Armenia on massive scale in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan keep claiming lives of innocent civilians and threaten to kill more. As of today, around 30 Azerbaijani citizens, including 2 journalists have been killed and around 130 citizens have been wounded. This threat can be mitigated through release by Armenia of all maps of mined fields, in compliance with the international humanitarian law.

Trilateral statements of 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russian Federation created a unique opportunity to build lasting peace and security in South Caucasus based on fundamental norms and principles of international law after three decades of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Government of Azerbaijan has prioritized rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories and restoration of housing, essential services, transportation and communication infrastructure to ensure safe return of displaced population and achievement of high standards of living. Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its readiness for normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia based on mutual recognition of and respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders and expects reciprocity on the part of Armenia.

I thank you Mr. Chair.