Thank you Mr. Chairman,

1. As we all know, despite positive movement in other areas of disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) has been stalled by standoffs and arguments since the adoption of the CTBT in 1996. Frustrated with its failure to keep abreast of recent advancements, some even question the very raison d’être of the CD. The 24 September High-level Meeting hosted by the UN Secretary-General was one of the responses proposed by the international society to the CD.

2. At the 24 September High-level Meeting, we again found that the reasons for the impasse in the CD process are various and complex and the answers to these problems are also not simple. The long-standing deadlock was attributed to both regional security concerns, on which no country is willing to make a compromise, and the consensus rule of the CD.

3. It is clear that in order for the CD move forward, each country should demonstrate more political flexibility with respect to security considerations and modus operandi. Once countries exhibit some flexibility and a spirit of cooperation, the CD may evolve in keeping with the rapidly changing disarmament climate, injecting fresh impetus into the negotiations process.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We believe that the CD members will be able to resolve the deadlock on the basis of existing agreements, such as the Shannon mandate of 1995 and CD/1864 of 2009, without any prejudice to the comprehensive and balanced approach required in addressing all the major issues in the CD. While we believe it is the appropriate time to begin negotiations on an FMCT, we should also find ways to discuss other major issues.
5. The Republic of Korea looks forward to the review of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters of the UN Secretary-General on the issues raised at the 24 September High-level Meeting. As the Korean delegation proposed at the meeting, we may consider establishing a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons Group with special focus on the functioning of the CD under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The CD should and can be revived as a key part of the robust machinery of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is my sincere hope that the CD will reach a consensus on the Programme of Work at the first plenary meeting of the CD in 2011, thus enabling it to begin substantive negotiations. My delegation believes that the time is ripe to push ahead with the work of the CD. To that end, it is imperative that we maintain the momentum gained at the 24 September High Level Meeting and use the discussions as a valuable starting point for developing practical measures for facilitating negotiations in the CD.

Thank you. /END/