The 66th session of the UN General Assembly
First Committee
Disarmament machinery cluster

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Aapo Pölhö
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New York, 24 October 2011

(check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

Finland believes that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) should be the focal point of our efforts. The CD is irreplaceable in its role as a single multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament. The Conference can justifiably be proud of having managed to create international norms such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. These achievements are remarkable.

However, more than decade long deadlock in the CD threatens to unravel the system of multilateral disarmament negotiations. The UN disarmament machinery is in jeopardy and requires political reengagement and fresh thinking by all. Business as usual is not an option. Launching the negotiations would positively contribute to the climate of mutual trust and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) should be a priority. We need to begin negotiations on an FMCT without delay. Negotiations should take place in the CD since it is the forum that takes different national security concerns into consideration in the most effective way, in a way that no ad hoc forum can do.

An FMCT would take us a step closer to our goal of a world without nuclear weapons and would also be essential for our nonproliferation efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

I appeal to everybody to allow the work of the CD to restart. We need more substantial discussion and search for common ground and less procedure also in the First Committee and the UN Disarmament Commission. We hope that with political re-engagement of all Member States we can together take the agenda forward.

Now it is the time to get down to work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman