Joint Statement by Interested States
in Support of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

We reiterate the exclusive importance and significance of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiation forum that provided and that continues to be the framework for negotiating fundamental international disarmament instruments.

We strongly believe that the Conference together with other elements of the UN disarmament “triad” – the First Committee of the UN GA and the UN Disarmament Commission – has proved its relevance by making a significant practical contribution to maintaining international security, and resolving the key issues in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. We call for efforts to overcome stagnation in the field of multilateral disarmament. We must thoroughly and consistently search for compromises acceptable for all with due account for national security priorities of each Member State.

We believe that the Conference with its fundamental principle of consensus and its membership cannot be substituted by any other forum in addressing the complex tasks that it already has on its agenda.

We call on the States participating in the work of the Conference to come to an agreement on a balanced and comprehensive work programme and resume its substantive work on the key agenda issues – nuclear disarmament, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, prevention of an arms race in outer space, effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons – in accordance with its rules of procedure.

We call on the States concerned to continue all possible efforts in order to find best possible solutions at the Conference on Disarmament.