Mr. Chairman,

The Conference on Disarmament (CD), mired in standoffs and arguments since the adoption of the CTBT in 1996, has not been able to embark on substantial discussion, let alone begin any negotiations on disarmament instruments.

The reasons for the impasse in the CD process may be various and complex and the answers to these problems may not be simple. The long-standing deadlock has often been attributed to regional security concerns on which, in general, making compromises is more difficult than on other issues. Also, the consensus rule of the CD has been blamed for the current cul-de-sac by many countries.

Recently, however, we have witnessed several encouraging movements. In particular, my delegation welcomes the launch of an informal working group to discuss ways to produce a programme of work during the inter-sessional period running up to the 2014 meetings of the CD. The shared sense of crisis even prompted consideration of a so-called simplified programme of work and a conceptual review of the customary programme of work within the CD. My delegation believes that these attempts reflect not only how seriously Member States viewed the prolonged stalemate, but also their strong commitment to revitalize the CD. Taking this opportunity, I would like to emphasize that the political flexibility by Member States on the operational procedures and the beginning of negotiations is highly important and essential for us to make any tangible outcomes during these sessions.
As the world’s single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, the CD has played a significant role. Indeed, the CD and its predecessors have had a long history of delivering landmark agreements such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The three Conventions continue to develop to reflect new challenges and evolving threats, thereby significantly contributing to the global peace and security. In particular, we recently witnessed the Syrian Government’s joining of the CWC as the 190th State Party, making the CWC reach near universality. Although the CTBT has not yet entered into force, we are moving forward albeit slowly. These developments and achievements clearly remind us of the *raison d’être* of the CD as a negotiation body, and its continued role in furthering international peace and security.

Finally, as another arm of the disarmament platforms of the UN, the UNDC should also live up to the lofty expectations placed on it with a sense of urgency. In particular, as next year will be the concluding session in our triennial discussion cycle, it should play a pivotal role in living up to its name as a specialized, deliberative body for submitting recommendations to the UN General Assembly.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the ROK Government’s strong commitment to revitalize the disarmament machinery. The Republic of Korea will continue to actively and constructively participate in the concerted efforts to this end. /End/