Thank you, Mr Chairman

Portugal strongly believes that a multilateral approach to the concerns of the International Community remains the best means to achieve long-lasting peace and security. This entails a constructive participation in the decision-making process of the multilateral disarmament machinery, which has to work in an inclusive manner. Indeed, not only must States engage with one another in searching for the best possible solutions, but they must also not prevent others to contribute to the discussions of issues that are of everyone's concern.

In this regard, Portugal regrets that no decision was taken by the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on the appointment of a Special Rapporteur tasked to examine the enlargement modalities of the CD without any prejudice to the outcome, as the Informal Group of Observer States to the CD called for, with whose statement my own aligns. It is undeniable that such a revitalization of the CD is as desirable as it is needed.

Indeed, this is one of the consequences of the agonizing impasse of CD to which we all bear witness year after year. The CD's failure to agree on a programme of work does a disservice to the higher aims that presided to its creation and to the achievements that are part of the history of the CD. Portugal hopes that (quote) “a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation” (end of quote) will be produced by the informal working group so tasked by the CD and subsequently agreed upon.

It is also painfully clear that negotiations of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) must start at once, and that a moratorium on the production of fissile material should be observed in the meantime.

Mr President,

Portugal hopes that our deliberations in the First Committee can put us in the path to the long-awaited solution.

I thank you.