Mr. Chairman,

During yesterday’s afternoon meeting, an argument was put forward that there has been no prospect for the EIF of the CTBT and commencement of an FMCT negotiation which we regard as important effective measures. I would like to bring attention to the fact that progress has been made in the CTBT and an FMCT over the past few years.

Regarding the CTBT:

First, the universalization of the CTBT has been rapidly progressing, i.e. now 183 states signed and 164 ratified. With Indonesian’s ratification in 2012, now eight Annex II countries remain. The current Executive Secretary, Mr. Zerbo has been actively visiting Annex II States to push for their earliest ratifications. We need to commend his earnest efforts. Now Japan and Kazakhstan have been working as Co-coordinators of Article XIV to promote the EIF of the Treaty.

Second, installment of the IMS (International Monitoring System) has reached nearly 90% completion (i.e. more than 300 out of 337 IMS stations all over the world have been already established). This IMS successfully detected the most recent nuclear test by the DPRK and has provided valuable data for Member States.

Third, the IMS is involved with the engagement of China, in which they have contributed by sending relevant IMS data to the IDC in Vienna. This adds significant value to the reliability of the IMS.
Therefore, although the CTBT has yet to come into force, we can say that the prohibition of nuclear tests is emerging as a “de facto international norm” backed up by all NPT nuclear weapon states involved.

We should not forget that it took a long time (namely two decades) of patient efforts for making these achievements.

With regard to an FMCT:

First, we all know that constructive discussions on an FMCT have been conducted repeatedly in CD sessions for the past few years with the participation of all nuclear weapon possessing states. And Member States have already deepened our understanding of the structure of a treaty and successfully identified future tasks on an FMCT.

Second, a draft treaty was tabled most recently in 2014.

Third, the FMCT GGE (Group of Government Experts) thoroughly discussed major issues, including stocks and also identified future issues for negotiation.

Thus, the FMCT is the most mature among the four core issues in the CD, so that once a negotiation starts, it is expected to proceed swiftly.

Mr. Chairman,

As said earlier, given the worsening international security situation in recent years, the significance of the CTBT and an FMCT is becoming more important than ever before. We believe that we need to take a fresh look at these legal measures.

We believe that the closest way to achieve global zero is to take realistic effective measures in a progressive manner. One panelist said that the problem is a lack of implementation with these measures. If you look closely, there is steady progress. But it will take time to implement these nuclear disarmament measures with closely related national security.
Therefore, this approach seems to be a detour, but it is actually a short cut to achieve global zero.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.