Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohsen Naziri Asl
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva and President of the CD
CD plenary Tuesday 11 June 2013

Mr. Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament,
Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me start by appreciating all delegations that were contributed to our last plenary discussion on Program of Work. We had a very valuable and constructive debate and exchange of views on Program of Work both formally and informally in which member States expressed their national positions as well as possible ways to overcome the problems of Program of Work. In addition to that, since previous plenary meeting of the CD, we continued to hold informal bilateral consultations on the program of work of the CD. During the consultations of the last week we went through different approaches and noticed a tendency among delegations tilted toward a pragmatic approach.

I will continue my consultations to explore the best way of reaching an agreement on Program of Work.

As I indicated in the last meeting, the topic for this meeting is discussion on the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament.

Let me put my national hat for a while and express our views on the revitalization. In our view, the CD as a sole international negotiation body in the field of disarmament is one of the important elements of the disarmament machinery created by the SSOD-I. The CD is a well-known body in the field of disarmament multilateral diplomacy with a noble record of major achievements in the field of legally binding disarmament instruments. Its unique agenda composition and rules of procedures make the CD an exceptional body in the field of disarmament and international security negotiations. The SSOD-I has put into place the
disarmament machinery and if there is a need to address challenges to its effectiveness, we have no choice other than go through its right path that is to convene the SSOD-IV. Indeed, it is the principled position of the Non-Aligned Movement to hold the SSOD-IV, but it has yet to be convened.

In the meantime, the international security environment has changed considerably in recent years. A flood of demands for greater progress in disarmament especially nuclear disarmament has been witnessed. First and utmost priority has been attributed by the members of international community to nuclear disarmament and the CD should pay due attention to this priority. The progressive and active role of civil society in effecting at the security and disarmament issues is a reality and the growing number and diversity of states that are taking an active interest in different aspects of nuclear disarmament is an established fact. This brings a pressure on the CD and increases the expectation of international community from the CD. The increasing parallel tracks to the CD have the potential to undermine the Conference on disarmament as the sole negotiation body in the field of disarmament. Thus it is of the great importance that the CD will be strengthened and revitalized by resumption of its substantive works, particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament.

In our view, the main problem of this body is not a procedural one and it is a matter of substance which rooted in the lack of political will to start negotiation on nuclear disarmament. Therefore, the revitalization of the CD should not be focused on procedural reform but rather through creating a momentum on raising political will for substantive work on nuclear disarmament.

This meeting would give a chance to delegations to outline their view on this issue of high importance. In this regard, I am very interested in hearing the position of the delegations on the issue of revitalization of the CD which also includes examining of the ways and means for the active participation of the NGOs in the work of the CD. The floor is open for the delegations that wish to comment on this issue.