Statement by Mr. Mohammad Hassan Daryaei  
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Mr. President,

At the outset allow me to associate myself with the statements of the G21 as delivered by the distinguished ambassador of Zimbabwe. We support fully both G21 important statements.

The CD like every other international body needs regular evaluation and assessment. The SSOD-I put into place disarmament machinery. There is a need to address challenges to its effectiveness. The best way for addressing these challenges is the convening of SSOD-IV and overhauling the whole machinery. Therefore we support early convening of the SSODIV.

The CD is an illustrious body in the field of disarmament multilateral diplomacy with lots of records of achievements in the field of legally binding instruments that creates the cornerstone and major body of international non-proliferation regime. While reason de etre of the CD is nuclear disarmament, it is an unfortunate fact that that the contribution of this body to nuclear disarmament has been little and in no way meet the expectation of the international community. This problem does not originate from the institution itself but it is rooted in the lack of political will of the members.

The Conference on Disarmament remains the sole multilateral negotiating body on
disarmament and I do not see any alternative body that has the potential to replace this body. The specific composition, wide agenda and the special rules of procedures give the CD a unique position. We support every measure that strengthens its credibility and its well functioning. I believe that promoting the work of the CD can not be achieved by changing the format or the modality of the rules of procedures. Neither can it be achieved by changing our interpretation about these rules. It worth reminding that not only all existing multilateral treaties were negotiated in the CD under the same rules of procedure, including the rule of consensus, but also the sensitive nature of issues related to security of the nations and disarmament obligate us to adopt the similar rules in negotiation of multilateral disarmament treaties in other fora.

Mr. President,

AS we have said in many meetings of the CD the crux of the problem of inactivity of the CD during last decade is the lack of political will for elimination of the common threat posed to the international community by nuclear weapons and inertia in changing the self centred attitudes towards a noble approach of cooperative sustainable security. The persistent resistance against active functioning of the CD by starting negotiation in all core issues is mainly because of this reason that the CD is not mandated to maintain the status quo, it is mandated to negotiate multilateral disarmament treaties and thus to change the status quo. If the CD had fulfilled its real mandate through negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear weapon convention, the status quo would have been changed and those who had had special privileges of being regarded as the haves should have lost this advantage. Therefore the resistance against fulfilling the mandate of the CD is high and as long as the mind set for recognition of some values for nuclear weapons does not change and the presumption of the Cold War continues we won’t have any breakthrough in fulfilling the mandate of this body. Thus, this impasse is not the problem of form but is the problem of substance and does not relate to any procedural problem in the CD but has a close link with the lack of progress in the realm of disarmament. The CD is not a single issue venue and lack of consensus on the scope of negotiation on one issue can not prevent delegations from starting negotiation on others. We believe the early commencement of negotiations, within the CD, on Nuclear Weapon Convention that
prohibit the possession, development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction within a specified framework of time, is the urgent need of the disarmament machinery today. If we start this negotiation in the CD, we will be in a position to comprehensively tackle all the core issues in the agenda of the CD in a balanced manner and revitalize the CD and whole disarmament machinery.

Mr. President,

I re-emphasized again that All Member States should demonstrate strong political will and exercise the utmost flexibility in order to start substantive work of the CD, to start discussion on possibility of the expansion of the CD and to increase the CD interaction with the impartial NGOs and civil society. The radical proposal of negotiation of the FMCT outside the CD is neither feasible nor acceptable.

I thank you.