Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to join those who expressed their deep appreciation of your personal commitment and dedication to making progress in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. We cannot but commend your efforts for conducting wide range of consultations and as a result – submitting document CD/1948.

Mr. President,

I feel important to make some remarks in order to add the voice of my delegation to those who already expressed their positive attitude to your draft decision aimed at the establishment of a Programme of Work for the CD’s 2013 session.

We appreciate your efforts to implement the Rules of Procedure of this august body. As stipulated in Rule 28 “… the Conference, at the beginning of its annual session, shall establish its programme of work, which will include a schedule of its activities for that session…” It goes without saying that CD could not establish a Programme of Work without considering a draft decision on it.

For Bulgaria, the Programme of Work adopted in 2009 as document CD/1864 continues to be a golden standard. At the same time, we see CD unable to deliver according to its mandate. May be time has come to make concessions, to go beyond our golden legacies and look for new approaches if we really care for the future of the CD as well as for the future generations. In this context, we regard CD/1948, which merges Nuclear Disarmament and FMCT in one working group, as a brave step in the right direction.

Mr. President,

Bulgaria has always sought to play a constructive role in this body and has supported every initiative designed to overcome the longstanding deadlock in the Conference. Although we are asked to go beyond the golden standard, Bulgaria is ready to make a compromise and support the draft decision on the establishment of a Programme of Work as contained in document CD/1948. Though we heard today some other positions, we call upon all other delegations to do the same acting in a responsible way. Sometimes, to act in a responsible way does not necessarily mean to agree, simply avoid disagreeing.

Mr. President,

We heard and fully subscribe to the statement made today by Ireland, on behalf of the EU. I would like to add our voice to those who expressed their concern on the new nuclear test conducted by DPRK earlier today. We cannot but condemn this action. We call on the DPRK’s authorities to adhere to their international commitments and not to hamper efforts for establishing a lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

Thank you!