Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for your efforts to develop this draft programme of work. Canada commends your consultative approach and believes that the draft text tabled represents a creative attempt to overcome the current impasse and we hope that it can find a viable consensus. This text requires compromise from all sides and will demand that many states make concessions on their priority issues. From a Canadian perspective, we would have preferred a specific working group mandated to negotiate an FMCT.

Nevertheless, Canada for its part is prepared to demonstrate both flexibility and compromise. We have consistently stated that we want to see the CD return to work and address its core issues, including FMCT.

In this regard, I would note that we must keep in mind that the General Assembly has asked the CD not only to agree to a programme of work but to implement it.

We believe that if this draft programme of work should achieve consensus and if it were fully implemented, substantive work on all four core issues can be achieved.

Implementation will be important. It will not be enough for working groups to meet, only to be held up by procedural wrangling or unnecessary debate over the pace of work in each group.

Mr. President,

If you will permit me, I would like to take this opportunity to also express Canada's deep concern by reports that North Korea may have conducted yet another nuclear test in the last 24 hours. If confirmed as a nuclear test, this act would constitute a clear threat to international peace and security, and further challenge efforts to strengthen global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. My government feels strongly that such actions, by a known proliferator of weapons of mass destruction that is in violation of its non-proliferation obligations, highlights the contradictions of its participation in the world's single standing multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. North Korea must immediately end nuclear testing, return to compliance with the NPT and cooperate with international entities such as the IAEA and CTBTO.