Statement by
Ambassador Päivi Kairamo
Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN in Geneva
Conference on Disarmament 14th February 2013

• Mr President, let me congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency. You have done a great job and my delegation stands ready to support your efforts.

• We all know CD is in trouble, and has been for a too long time. At the same time I am convinced that most of us share the view, CD is and should remain a central negotiating body for future multilateral disarmament treaties, in accordance with its mandate.

• The patience of international community is not eternal: at a point, and maybe not too far away, disarmament negotiations will gradually move to other fora. This might also mean that the CD would be fading away.

• For Finland CD still remains a priority. Today we have yet another chance to kick-start the CD work.

• Mr President, you have, after careful consultation with the parties in the CD, skillfully drafted a proposal for the Programme of Work and its implementation plan, that is today in front of us.

• Finland is ready to proceed with all four core issues of the CD agenda. We have viewed the FMCT as our priority, the next step towards nuclear disarmament. But we also understand that others have other priorities. Therefore I think you, Mr President, have found a very well balanced compromise in your proposal for the Programme of Work.

• In the spirit of compromise, we stand ready to support your proposal.

• I wish, for the sake of the CD, for the sake of the UN disarmament machinery and multilateral disarmament efforts, and ultimately for the sake of security for us all, we could allow this compromise proposal to be adopted, and work to be started in the CD.

Regarding nuclear test conducted by North Korea earlier today

• Finland condemns strongly DPRK’s nuclear test earlier today,

• Finland fully aligns itself with the statement given by the European Union High Representative Cathrine Ashton earlier today on this issue.

• DPRK’s nuclear test unambiguously and with a serious manner violates its international commitments, especially Un Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087 and its IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement

• Finland calls upon DPRK to comply with all its international commitments and urges DPRK to refrain from further measures which jeopardize the stability in the Korean Peninsula and increase tensions in the area

• Finland urges DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons program and allow IAEA’s inspectors immediate entrance to country