Conference on Disarmament, 12 February 2013

Sweden

Mr President,

Allow me to begin by commending and congratulating you and your team on your excellent work and to thank you for the proposal contained in document CD/1948.

Mr President,

Sweden fully subscribes to the statements by the European Union, delivered at the beginning of the session and at this meeting.

We join others in strongly condemning North Korea’s nuclear test, conducted in clear violation of several Security Council resolutions and with disregard for the disarmament and nonproliferation regime. The test is a serious affront to the international norm established by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Mr President,

My delegation has consistently called for a resumption of substantial work in this conference. We are, of course, fully aware of the difficulties in finding a formula that would command consensus. It is also clear to us, that there will never be a draft programme of work that all members will consider perfect or perhaps even good enough to explicitly support. What we hope can be achieved is a situation in which all members, more or less reluctantly, can refrain from opposing a proposal. This, we think, is how the consensus rule is meant to function.

Mr. President,
We would like to make three brief points.

Firstly, the proposal contained in CD/1948 is, in our view, balanced and fair. We believe that it represents an effort to accommodate all sides.

Secondly, Sweden believes in a step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament and is convinced that an FMCT is an essential step in such a process. The proposal in front of us reflects these ideas.

Thirdly, we have all registered the repeated calls from the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and many others for the CD to get back to work.

For all these reasons Sweden supports the adoption of document CD/1948. We would like to urge all members to show flexibility and to accept its adoption.

Thank you, Mr President.