STATEMENT

delivered at the Conference on Disarmament

Geneva, 12 February 2013

Please check against delivery
Mr President,

It has now been confirmed that North Korea carried out a nuclear test today.

The UK associates itself with the statement delivered earlier reflecting EU views.

I would like to draw attention to the statement made by Foreign Secretary William Hague this morning. I quote:

“I strongly condemn this development, which is a violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. North Korea’s development of its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities poses a threat to international and regional security. Its repeated provocations only serve to increase regional tension, and hinder the prospects for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

“UN Security Council Resolution 2087 committed the Security Council to take significant action in the event of a further launch or nuclear test by North Korea. The UK will begin urgent consultations with Security Council partners calling for a robust response to this latest development. North Korea has a choice to make: it can either engage constructively with the international community, cease developing its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and return to negotiations, or face increasing isolation and further action by the Security Council and the international community.”

Thank you Mr President.