Statement by
Ambassador Päivi Kairamo
Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN in Geneva
Conference on Disarmament 12th March 2013
on FMCT

Madame President

1. I would like to start by presenting my delegation’s gratitude and admiration on the excellent manner that you madam President have conducted your duties in chairing this conference.

2. Finland fully aligns herself with the statement given earlier by the European Union.

3. Finland attaches great importance to the CD as a single multilateral disarmament negotiating body and a crucial part of the UN Disarmament Machinery. As we have said earlier, we would be ready to start negotiations on all four core issues in the CD.

4. Nevertheless, as this road remains blocked, we should not remain paralyzed. This is why we voted in favor for the GA resolution 67/53 on a Treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. We would also like to commend our Canadian colleagues for such an excellent ground work they did when preparing the resolution. We are convinced that the established mechanism, ie collecting the views of member states and establishing a Group of Governmental Experts, will contribute to the work of the CD and UN Disarmament Machinery in general.

5. The FMCT work is not starting from the scratch. For years the issue has been in various discussions. For example last year’s technical experts meetings organized by Germany and the Netherlands here in Geneva, can contribute to the forthcoming work of the GGE. We see the GGE as a clear expert forum and hope that it will be able to bring valuable substantial contributions to us, such as considering the scope, fissile material definitions and verification mechanisms.

6. An effective FMCT would be a logical next step, complementing NPT and CTBT. Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction in its true meaning. We, the international community, are all responsible for that nuclear weapons are never used. For this we need intensive disarmament efforts supported by the whole international community.

Madame President,

7. Let me also take this opportunity and welcome very much the statement by Ms Beatrice Fihn of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). With a reference to the International Women’s day last week, I would like to stress that the role of women in disarmament is as crucial as ever. We also warmly welcome the interaction between the CD and Civil Society.

I thank you