Mr. Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament,
Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking all of you and appreciating all support that I received from you, during my Presidency. As I said in the first meeting, the President has capacities and may take initiatives, but the end result is depending very much on all the CD members and the success of the conference is a collective responsibility. The CD for a long time has been struggling to keep its relevancy by exploring different approaches towards its program of work. It succeeded exceptionally but not always.

Let me share the following comments with you which in some way reflect the results of my efforts since the beginning of the presidency. I indicated in the beginning of the presidency that I will fully adhere to the principles of transparency, impartiality, inclusiveness and also completely abide by the rules of procedures of the Conference. My first priority during presidency has been searching possible ways for reaching agreement on the program of work. To fulfill my tasks as the president and in line with concentrating on my first priority, we have done bilateral conceptual consultations on the program of work at the expert level, Ambassadorial level and regional level with different countries from different regions.

We allocated one plenary to the discussion of the program of work, the most urgent issue of the CD right now, and we had a very valuable and constructive debate and exchange of views both formally and informally in that plenary. Last week we had very good frank and useful consultations with all regional groups which provide me with a clearer picture on the current situation that we are in.
In all of those consultations, which were aimed at narrowing down the gap and exploring ways and means to promote consensus on the program of work of the CD, we discussed all possible alternatives for the POW and two main approaches namely the Idealistic and Pragmatic were recognized.

Consultations of the last three weeks demonstrated to us that the propensity among delegations inclined toward Pragmatic approach. Although from the national point of the Islamic Republic of Iran this approach is not a preferable option. We have always reiterated, along with G21, the urgency of the start of negotiations on nuclear disarmament as the utmost priority of the majority of the international community. Let me enumerate on certain factors that bring the need to proceed based on the pragmatic approach.

1- If every member sticks to its national position and maintain its high level of expectations, we may never overcome the deadlock of the CD. Although the effectiveness of the CD and disarmament machinery in its totality is subject to international environment and security of States, it does not mean that the members of the CD cannot break its deadlock by creativity and flexibility.

2- The discussion on some of the core issues has already been taking place outside the CD in other formats such as UN working group or expert group. The rising parallel tracks to the CD would likely undermine the Conference on Disarmament as the sole negotiation body in the field of disarmament. This brings a pressure on the CD and increases the expectation of international community from the CD.

3- If we pay attention to the history record of the CD, in the past the CD has not always had a negotiating mandate for each and every item of the its own Agenda.

4- The pragmatic approach may enable member States to engage substantively in discussing issues that are related to the CD in a structured and purposeful manner and paved the way for later negotiations on the same issues in the future. As negotiations without prior substantive discussion of an issue is not in any way possible.
After three weeks of intensive consultations we reached to the point that best feasible approach is the pragmatic approach and a possible Program of Work should enjoy all innovative efforts of the past Presidents in trying to simplify or streamline the Program of work, equally treatment of all core issues with respect to the mandate, modality and the language, and avoid any kind of divisive mandate. According to these criteria I have prepare the text of the draft decision for program of work which has been distributed yesterday in the meeting with regional group coordinators. I believe that this text has the common denominator of all positions reflected in the consultations. My aim in presenting this draft is to make all the members equally happy and I know that there might be also criticism on the draft text if delegations would still stick to their national priorities. If every body would be equally unhappy that would be also the art of consensus building.

This meeting provides us with this opportunity to have the preliminary reactions to the text. In addition to this discussion, the presidency is always open to further consultation with all delegations that might receive views from their capitals and want to share it with the president. Anyhow based on further consultations with the delegations, I have a plan to act accordingly on the text on Friday plenary.