Mr. President,
It is a matter of great regret to the Nigerian delegation that we have come to the end of yet another presidency of the CD without agreeing on a programme of work. Being the first presidency of the 2013 session, we had really hoped, perhaps against hope, that we could achieve the kind of concrete results that would have set a positive tone for the rest of the year. This has clearly not been the case and we feel sad to see another opportunity for decisive action missed. We regret that the CD is not living up to the legitimate expectations of the international community as were made clear in the relevant resolutions adopted at the 67th session of the UNGA.

We once again call on all member states to show flexibility and demonstrate the political will that is required to move our work in the CD forward. We have never downplayed, nor shall we ever downplay, the significance of national interests and especially national security interests, in the calculations of member states. Showing flexibility does not amount to giving up or compromising our national interests and showing a willingness to negotiate is not, in any way, a sign of weakness or capitulation.

CD/1299 has laid the foundation for each member of the CD to bring out all issues of interest to them on FMCT - be it stockpiles or future production. So whether you view FMCT from a perspective of disarmament or from a perspective of non-proliferation, if we go by the letter and spirit of CD/1299, both perspectives could have been accommodated in the negotiations envisaged in the Ad-Hoc Committee on FMCT proposed by Ambassador Shannon, just as they could have been negotiated under CD/1864, CD/1933 and CD/1948.

Finally Mr. President, we commend you for the honest and untiring effort you have put into finding a way out of the stalemate that has paralysed the CD for far too long. As said earlier, we very much regret that we could not reach a consensus on your proposed programme of work. Nevertheless, we remain committed to working with each and every delegation to chart a way forward for the CD.

I thank you.