Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to join all of our colleagues in congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency as we are currently preparing for a self evaluation of the work which has been earned out by the Conference this year. In particular, my delegation would like to once again affirm our full support of your presidency.

I am confident that your able leadership will serve us at this important juncture when the informal working group is launched with a mandate to produce a programme of work which is robust in substance and progressive overtime in implementation. CD/1956/Rev.1 is the first consensus we made since CD/1864 was adopted more than four years ago. Though small and modest it is, the consensus last week is indeed commendable. I indeed hope that we can maintain the positive momentum stemming from the decision made in the. Conference and revive the spirit of cooperation and collaboration throughout our discussion in the informal working group.

It is my sincere hope that the informal working group will offer us a valuable opportunity to make progress at both procedural and substantive levels.-

Along these lines, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the informal paper which you distributed yesterday. I believe the informal paper will provide a valuable food for thought for our future work including the task of the informal working group. In line with your perspective, the Republic of Korea supports all the efforts to revitalize the CD to start multilateral disarmament negotiations according to its mandate.

The Republic of Korea extends its full support to Chair and Vice Chair of the informal working group,. Ambassador Luis Gallegos Chiriboga of Ecuador and Ambassador Peter Woolcott of Australia in their future endeavors.

Thank you. /end/