Statement by H.E. Mr. Mari Amano
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan
to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva, 22 January 2013

Mr. President,

Distinguished representatives,

Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, at the outset let me congratulate you Ambassador Dékány on your assumption of the first presidency of 2013 to the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of my delegation's full support over the period of your leadership.

Mr. President,

In the Conference last year, at the strong demand of the international community, the member states of the CD endeavored to resume substantive work. Regrettably, however, the CD was unable to adopt a program of work. In response, a number of proposals aimed at overcoming this situation were tabled at last
year's UN General Assembly. As a result, a decision was taken to establish a group of governmental experts on the FMCT. Nonetheless, this does not mean that we need to slow down our efforts to restart the work of the CD. While recognizing the importance of conducting substantive work on all four core issues, Japan continues to believe that the FMCT is the next logical step towards a nuclear weapons free world; and our best option is to negotiate such a treaty within the CD, if possible.

Therefore, we strongly support the president's plan to focus on the adoption of a program of work. Furthermore, taking into consideration the priority placed on the FMCT by the vast majority of the international community, we desire that the work program will enable the immediate commencement of negotiations. For Japan's part, we pledge to cooperate to the fullest extent to this end.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.