Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Dekany for the assumption of the Presidency of the CD, and for serving as the first president of this year. I am confident that with your able leadership, we will be able to achieve positive outcomes in the first session of the Conference.

It is worrisome that the disarmament machinery has failed to implement its mandate for a long time. The crisis we face now in the disarmament community is indeed very hard to overlook. Decades without any significant or tangible progress is not acceptable whether we consider the international disarmament community or the broader international community.

With the world suffering from the persisting global economic downturn, risk factors to international peace and security are tending to increase. Against this backdrop, a breakthrough in the issues of the Conference would send a clear positive signal to the world.

During the 67th Session of the UNGA 1st Committee, the dormancy of the Conference was once again fiercely discussed, and now we have several resolutions adopted in this regard. The Republic of Korea shares the view
that the revitalization of the Conference is imperative to resuming the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation talks, and closely cooperates with member countries in all of the efforts to invigorate our work in the CD.

It is our sincere hope that the Conference will take into account the calls being extended from outside and embark on negotiations of the pending issues. Whether the CD will continue to remain as a single multilateral negotiation forum does not depend on its past achievements or reputation but rather on its ability to deliver tangible outcomes now. It is up to us to produce these outcomes. It is now that we must attain these results. To this end, we should show more flexibility. We would do better to put all of the interests and concerns on the negotiation table with the aim of closing existing gaps among us.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea assures you of its full support and cooperation throughout your leadership, and it reaffirms its support for the early adoption of a programme of work with a view to moving the Conference forward.

Thank you, Mr. President. /end/