Concluding Remarks by H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
President of the Conference on Disarmament

Geneva, 24 May 2013

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

Allow me to say a few words for my concluding remarks as today is the last plenary convened under Indonesia’s Presidency. It has been an honor and a privilege for Indonesia in assuming the task of the President of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

As I assumed my Presidency, I am fully aware that for 16 years, the CD has been in a stalemate. Having the CD get back on track is not something to be foreseen. I thought what a pity if we allow ourselves to be the witness of an ageing stalemate in the CD. If revitalization could not counter ageing, maybe alternative remedy could be prescribed.

I have benefitted four weeks of my Presidency with additional six weeks of CD recess to have an intensive consultation with almost all member states on the possibility to make the CD get back to work and hopefully be able to break the impasse.

During the consultations, I am grateful that member states candidly expressed their ideas, views, perspectives, concerns as well as shared their various degrees of hope pertaining to the future of the CD. This very much helps me understand the essence of a comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work, which I tried my best to formulate one.

I am fully aware and acknowledge of the different priorities among CD member states. I tried my utmost to bridge their differences and to find middle ground on the matter.

However, after rounds of consultations with concerned member states on the draft Programme of Work, I have to admit that there is a long way to go to reach consensus. Many member states have demonstrated their flexibility and willingness to join a consensus, but political consideration of others and insistence on certain priorities and specific language make it difficult to reach a consensus.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

All in all, member countries acknowledged, almost in unison, that the stalemate which has brought the CD to its current state has actually been caused by variables beyond the scope of this Conference.
Its roots lie in the CD’s external political environment. It is difficult to commence negotiations when priorities and interests of member states are in conflict, especially when some of these differences might also originated from domestic political considerations.

We shall not, however, to give up our hope. Let us give this august body a chance. If it was not by the virtue of our consensus, then let it be by the virtue of our patience and perseverance. Room for discussion shall need to be continuously opened, so that we shall never lost the opportunity to take the chance for advancement. It is our shared responsibility to make the CD work.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

In concluding, allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished delegates in the Council Chamber for all their important contribution to the work of the Conference.

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to all the 2013 CD Presidents, the Ambassador of Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq and Ireland for their good cooperation and collegiality extended to me during Indonesia’s Presidency. I would also like to thank all the Regional Coordinators, the Ambassadors of China, Kazakhstan, Slovakia and Viet Nam for their support.

I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament; Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Deputy-Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament; Mr. Ivor Richard Fung, Secretary of the Conference on Disarmament and the entire UNODA staff for all their assistance and expertise contributed during Indonesia’s Presidency. I would also like to thank all the conference officers and interpreters for their highly professional help during the CD Plenaries.

Last but not least, my best wishes to our distinguished colleague from Iran, Ambassador Mohsen Naziri Asl in discharging his task as incoming President on Conference on Disarmament. Rest assure of my delegation’s full support and cooperation during your Presidency.

I thank you.

******