Mr President,

Australia has consistently made known its views on the substantive work the Conference on Disarmament should be doing.

As a member of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Australia attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, and again recalls the three actions which relate to the work of the Conference – Action 6 on nuclear disarmament, Action 7 on nuclear security assurances and Action 15 on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices – not forgetting of course, the Conference’s fourth core issue on outer space. Australia believes that all NPT States Parties in this place should remain actively committed to the implementation of Actions 6, 7 and 15, as indeed the rest of the Action Plan.

It is a matter of record that Australia places particular, though not exclusive, importance on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as an essential, pragmatic, early and now long overdue measure in support of the broader goal of achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.

Australia spoke on this matter in the Conference on 12 March and I do not propose to repeat the remarks Australia made at the time. But I do wish to underline Australia’s view that the Shannon Mandate, contained in document CD/1299, remains relevant as a forward-looking starting point for substantive work on this issue and would allow all interests to be voiced in the context of a treaty negotiation.