Statement by Finland  
CD Plenary 4.6.2013

Mr President,

Let me welcome you to Geneva and to the CD. Finland had the CD Presidency exactly a year ago, and we of course understand the challenges it may possess.

Mr President,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union earlier.

Finland has been and is fully prepared to proceed on all four core issues in a balanced and equitable manner, with notably our own preference being commencing negotiations on the FMCT.

The FMCT would be the next step toward our common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Having said that, we also understand that others have other priorities.

The Program of Work is a major balancing act between different interests within the CD membership. A balanced and comprehensive Programme of Work was achieved in 2009 by CD1864, but unfortunately never implemented. Several attempts have been made since then, without success.

We appreciate the recent attempts to find a consensus Programme of Work and a way out of the deadlock by Hungary and Indonesia during their CD presidencies.

We have the consensus rule in the CD, in order not to jeopardize anyone’s security interests. However, if we wish to get the work started, much more flexibility is needed by all members of the CD.

As it seems to be very difficult to open up the stalemate for the time being, we would see value in looking into the CD working methods and revitalization as proposed by Switzerland and others. We should modernize the CD, for instance we should address issues of membership, participation of civil society, agenda and rotation of the presidency.

Mr President,

The CD is an invaluable vehicle in disarmament, but only if it runs. Otherwise it may end up in the garage.
I thank you