Mr President,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor during your Presidency, allow me to welcome you to Geneva and to the Presidency of the Conference.

Mr President,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

As many others, Sweden has often called for a resumption of substantial work in the Conference. Commendable efforts have been undertaken by several presidencies in recent years, including during the current session. As we know, however, it was on CD/1864 in 2009 that consensus on a programme of work was actually achieved. That proposal remains our preference.

We should also recall that a work programme is a mechanism to get substantive work going, and not a vehicle for solving all substantive disagreements or differences of opinion. These must be a matter for the negotiations that we seek to initiate.

Mr President,

The long-standing Swedish position is that we are open to move forward on all the core issues of the Conference. Our position is also that foremost among these issues is the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices. We need to put a legal cap on production of fissile material for weapons purposes, as well as to deal appropriately with previously produced stocks. The fissile material issue is part of the 2010 NPT Action Plan and the subject of many General Assembly resolutions. Much preparatory work has been done on the issue, on which we should be able to build. Substantive negotiations are overdue. A CD programme of work should, therefore, include a mandate to negotiate an FMCT.

As we have stated in other fora, such as the OEWG, Sweden believes in a “step-by-step” or “building block” approach to nuclear disarmament. An FMCT and the entry-into-force of the
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are essential elements in the process towards our goal of global zero.

Mr President,

We have heard proposals for a structured process aiming at improving the Conference's methods of work. We can see merit in this and we are open to it, as long as it does not become a substitute for the real work that the Conference is meant to be doing.

Thank you.