Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor for this session, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption as President of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation deeply appreciates the efforts and consultations that you, as well as the previous Presidents of the CD, have undertaken thus far. I wish to assure you of our full cooperation and support in your efforts to move the Conference forward.

2. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to you for sharing your thoughts and suggestions on how the Conference can best move forward from here, taking into account the proposals put forth by Secretary-General Tokayev on 18 June. On this note, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his proposals which we have studied carefully and feel that it merits further deliberation in the Conference.

3. Our delegation is of the view that the unfortunate continuing impasse in the CD reflects the lack of serious commitment towards achieving the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The CD has to re-conquer its relevancy as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. In this regard, we welcome the proposal by the Secretary-General on the establishment of an informal working group with a mandate to produce a Programme of Work.

4. However, any effort to produce a Programme of Work would be futile if there is a lack of commitment and sincerity among Member States in agreeing to such a document. We appreciate the tremendous efforts made by previous Presidents in producing draft Programmes of Work which sadly, could not be agreed upon by all delegations. This informal working group would bear the
same fate if there is no degree of flexibility shown by delegations in ensuring substantive progress in the CD. We feel that the red lines are already clear in the CD. The challenge is how we can manoeuvre the Conference out of this predicament without crossing these red lines.

5. My delegation, however, is optimistic on this proposal. We feel that in these difficult times of the CD, we need to be optimistic. Even if the informal working group could not agree to a specific Programme of Work, it would be beneficial if it could deliberate on the factors that prevent the CD from agreeing to a Programme of Work and to suggest ways to overcome these stumbling blocks.

Mr. President,

6. Regarding the timetable of work, we feel that the November-December period suggested for the meetings of the working group is acceptable. As you rightly pointed out, there are a number of disarmament-related meetings during this period and the scheduling of the working group meetings have to take these meeting dates into consideration. We also feel that it is important that the work of the informal working group to be clearly outlined for a report to be submitted during the early part of the 2014 CD Session.

7. It goes without saying that an agreed Programme of Work is the utmost priority in the CD and Member States should take the opportunity to start working on a Programme of Work at the earliest possible opportunity, even working beyond the normal CD Session, or trying to resolve the current stalemate.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia also welcomes the proposal to establish a subsidiary body in accordance with Article 23 of the Rules of Procedure, to examine and make proposals on the improvement of the working methods of the Conference. It is our understanding that your focus will be to conduct consultations with Member States on a draft Programme of Work and to consider the establishment of an informal working group to produce such a document. In this regard, we would like to seek your views on when you foresee a decision can be taken on the establishment of the subsidiary body and the modalities of its work. We would appreciate your views on this matter as we feel that the establishment of such a subsidiary body can be useful in order to examine whether the current working methods of the CD is hampering our progress.

9. Finally, we took note that the Secretary-General also proposed for the designation of a special coordinator to examine and make proposals on expansion of the membership of the Conference and on the possible role that civil society may play in its work. As Malaysia has pointed out previously in the past, we see value in exploring the possibility of expansion of the membership of the CD. We also recognise the positive contributions made by civil society to the
work of this Conference. My delegation has certainly benefitted from the active involvement of civil society in other disarmament fora and feels that the CD could benefit tremendously through similar engagements. Therefore, we would also like to seek your views on how the Conference can move forward with this proposal.

10. My delegation remains ready to work with you and other Member States towards achieving a positive and successful outcome during your Presidency. We welcome every opportunity to advance the work of the CD, and the proposals put forth by the Secretary-General have the possibility to lead us in that direction.

I thank you, Mr. President.