Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation would like to mainly focus on the Conference on Disarmament and the UNDC today. Despite the negotiation of a number of milestone treaties over the years, the Conference on Disarmament has remained unable to produce substantial work for more than a decade. Frustrated with the lack of progress, the international community continues to urge this disarmament machinery to change and members to overcome the political dynamics affecting its dismal performance. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also added his voice to these concerns during the opening plenary of the 2014 session, calling upon the Conference to make progress toward the resumption of substantive negotiations, in order to revalidate the relevance of the Conference.

2. This year, as the distinguished Ambassador of Malaysia reported yesterday in his capacity as CD President, we have witnessed some signs of improvement. In response to international calls for progress, the members of the CD embarked on several initiatives designed to renew action. During the 2014 session, the Conference re-established the informal working group (IWG) to discuss possible options for a programme of work, and also
conducted informal discussions on each agenda item according to the schedule of activities. These serious efforts demonstrated the strong commitment of the CD members to revitalize this forum.

Mr. Chairman,

3. We believe that CD members will be able to find a breakthrough for the current deadlock. It is our view that the CD/1864, which was based on the Shannon mandate, provides a good basis for commencing negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. While our priority is the starting negotiations on this issue, we do not exclude the possibility of finding ways to further boost the CD with discussions on other agenda items. In particular, the informal working group seems to be a very useful practice. We believe that such innovative efforts and contributions by CD members could eventually lead to more common ground upon which we can build.

4. At this critical juncture, all members of the CD are being called upon to do their best and exhibit political will to overcome the prolonged stalemate, with a shared sense of urgency. My delegation sincerely hopes that the CD can translate all of the efforts made this year into concrete actions next year. Once Member States demonstrate the spirit of flexibility and cooperation, the Conference will be able to evolve in keeping with the rapidly changing disarmament climate and inject renewed impetus into the negotiating process. In this way, the Conference can live up to the international community’s expectations, proving once again its relevance as the disarmament machinery.
Mr. Chairman,

5. The work of the United Nations Disarmament Commission cannot be free from the overall nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation context in the international community. However, its continued failure to produce any recommendations means that it has not met expectations for concrete recommendations before the General Assembly in accordance with its mandate as a specialized and deliberative body.

6. It is time for us to work together to revitalize the UNDC. Simply extending the three year cycle without a meaningful outcome would endanger the raison d'etre of the UNDC and undermine the credibility and authority of the multilateral disarmament machinery of the UN.

7. In this sense all Member States should focus on common denominators, rather than on differences. Some outcomes may not satisfy all Member States, but an incremental agreement would be better than no agreement. Above all, what this Commission urgently needs is progress.

8. Let me conclude by reiterating the ROK's sincere hope that the UNDC will emerge from this prolonged impasse and once again play a unique role in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is a task that requires our collective wisdom and a shared sense of responsibility. We look forward to a fruitful outcome in the near future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. /END/