Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome back to the second part of the 2015 session of the Conference on Disarmament. Many of you have just returned from the NPT Review Conference.

Many of you will have seen the remarks by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressing disappointment at the inability of the States Parties to the NPT to reach consensus on a “substantive outcome”. In particular he regretted that States parties were “unable to narrow their differences on the future of nuclear disarmament or to
arrive at a new collective vision on how to achieve a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.” I share this deep sense of disappointment.

I, and I assume many of you, had hoped that the NPT Review Conference would provide impetus for the CD’s agenda, namely nuclear disarmament, banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, as well as security assurances. The draft Final Document of the 2015 NPT Review Conference had included language in this regard.

As we start the second session of the CD it remains incumbent on the Members to continue seeking agreement on a programme of work with a negotiating mandate.

The disappointing outcome of the NPT Review Conference must not prevent the Conference on Disarmament from making substantive progress and moving forward on multilateral disarmament. Let me once again repeat Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon’ message to the Conference on Disarmament last January, “the need for progress in multilateral disarmament is greater than ever”.

Political will has to be found to allow the Conference on Disarmament to move beyond its long years of impasse. Through the adherence of its mandate, by negotiating and concluding disarmament treaties, the Conference has shown in the past that it make progress on its work and contribute to a safer world. The Conference now needs to resume its role of adding concrete value to the rule of law in disarmament. It was created for this purpose.

Allow me to take this opportunity to welcome the efforts by the Moroccan President of the Conference on Disarmament embodied in his three proposals -- the establishment of an informal working group to review the methods of work of the Conference; the renewal of the mandate of the informal working group to produce a programme of work and the schedule of activities, all of which were submitted to you during the first part of the session. Time is running out, and not many options are available to re-energize this forum if you are going to do so in 2015.

I thank you for your attention.