Mr. Michael Moller, Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Permanent Representatives to the Conference on Disarmament, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for Mexico to assume its responsibility as President of the Conference on Disarmament at this particularly challenging juncture, where we have the opportunity to make a positive impact in the current international security arena.

In my capacity as President of the Conference I would like to start my opening remarks by paying tribute to my immediate predecessor, Ambassador Mazlan Muhammad of Malaysia, as well as his team, for their outstanding work during the negotiation of the Annual Report of the Conference on its 2014 Session and the subsequent Resolution that was presented and adopted at the First Committee of the UNGA.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mexico is a country deeply committed to disarmament. My country’s foreign policy principles, incorporated in our Constitution, emanated from a philosophy that is the result of our history. These principles were influenced by a number of military interventions to which was subjected during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They were also influenced by the principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Our foreign policy is therefore based on historical experience and international law, and its enabler is multilateralism.
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2015, the nuclear age will be 70 years old. This year will also mark the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Seventy years have passed and there are still about 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world, despite significant reductions made in recent years. The world is not safer than at the end of World War II, nor more peaceful. War and conflict seem to be omnipresent in the history of mankind and, regrettably, inherent to human nature.

However, circumstances are vastly different: today’s global and interconnected world is more organized and more aware on the need for coexistence and care for one another. The international community has taken advantage of multilateral fora to resolve their differences and reach agreements. The multidimensional, comprehensive and progressive nature of human security is changing paradigms and priorities of decision-making processes and public policies among the contemporary international community. We have realized that a global security system, effective, sustainable and indivisible, cannot be based on the sacrifice of the few for the safety of others, nor on the sacrifice of most people in the world in favor of the interests of a handful of governments. Global security of the 21st Century must be based on international law and the unrestricted protection of human beings. In this context, Mexico is convinced that multilateral fora exist to help all stakeholders to find peaceful solutions to their challenges through decision-making processes that can lead to agreements that benefit all.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mexico has a long standing record of support to the CD, because of the high priority it attaches to disarmament, multilateralism and the value of forging agreements to achieve a safer world. That is precisely why Mexico has been highly
critical of the complacency in which the Conference has fallen into, for it has failed to fulfill its mandate for over 18 years.

In spite of this, Mexico’s Presidency is highly committed to make every effort to contribute to the Conference facing its challenges. In this regard, according to the 2014 Annual Report of the Conference, considering the growing importance and need of progress in multilateral disarmament, building on the focused efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to establish a programme of work for the 2014 session and with a view to early commencement of substantive work during its 2015 session, I conveyed informal consultations in December 2014. For this purpose, I invited every Member State to meet with me with their respective regional groups, as well as the Informal Group of Observer States and members of Civil Society.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your participation, input, constructive approach and flexibility during those informal meetings. As I mentioned during such meetings, I invite you to be creative, constructive and to help me overcome the artificial limitations that we have been building for more than a decade; to distinguish between rules, traditions and mythology. I appeal to your diplomatic skills to help me create the incentives for the much needed political will that is essential for the Conference to fulfill its mandate and for us to contribute to the construction of a safer world.

Taking full consideration of your comments, suggestions and recommendations at the informal consultations, and in accordance with Rules 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference on Disarmament which establish that “on the basis of its agenda, the Conference, at the beginning of its annual session, shall establish its programme of work, which will include a schedule of its activities for that session, taking also into account the recommendations, proposals and decisions referred to in rule 27” and that “the provisional agenda and the programme of work shall be drawn up by the President of the Conference with the assistance of the
Secretary-General and presented to the Conference for consideration and adoption”, Mexico is committed to fulfill its responsibility to working for the establishment of a programme of work for the 2015 session.

In order to draw up such a programme of work for the current session, last 15 January, through the Secretariat, I circulated among all the Permanent Representatives and Heads of Delegation of Member States to the Conference on Disarmament a letter kindly requesting your input on the elements that the programme should include, as well as any other suggestion you may have. I am at your disposal to receive your input on this matter. If it is true that all members want to put an end to the lack of substantive work at the CD, such a decision should not be difficult.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Enough has been said of the current stalemate that we are facing. We know that our task is not an easy one, but we are the only ones who can change. 2015 represents an opportunity to modify the dynamics and overcome the inertia that has prevailed in previous years and return promptly to multilateral diplomacy, looking for concrete results.

I look forward to working with you towards an effective and productive 2015 Session of the Conference on Disarmament, and ask you for your cooperation and support in this endeavor.

I thank you for your attention.