EU joint reply to the UNODA request related to the UNGA Resolution 67/53
“Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”

For the European Union, the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (hereafter treaty), on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, remains a clear priority.

The EU reaffirms its resolve to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

The EU remains committed to and stresses the need for concrete progress in nuclear arms control and disarmament processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, taking into account the special responsibility of the states that possess the largest arsenals, and agreement on specific and early measures, including achieving rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the start of negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as indispensable steps towards fulfilment of the obligations and final objective enshrined in Article VI of the NPT.

A treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices constitutes an urgent necessity in the nuclear disarmament field as a complement to the NPT and the CTBT.

National security concerns, while legitimate, can and should be addressed as part of the negotiation process rather than as a prerequisite. Confidence-building measures can be taken immediately, without the need to wait for the commencement of formal negotiations. In this regard, pending negotiations and the entry into force of the treaty, the European Union calls on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

All EU Member States supported resolution 67/53 of the General Assembly. The mechanism established by this resolution represents a useful contribution to helping the CD without undermining its authority and primary role in multilateral disarmament negotiations.

The technical expert meetings organised by two EU Member States, Germany and the Netherlands, in May and August 2012 on the treaty in support of the early commencement of negotiations within the CD were useful: they enhanced our knowledge and understanding on technical issues.

The European Union reaffirms its strong commitment to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. The CD, in accordance with its mandate, has a crucial role to negotiate multilateral treaties. Its on-
going stalemate remains deeply troubling. Adopting and implementing a Programme of Work will, inter alia, enable negotiations on a treaty.