Conference on Disarmament

Statement by

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to the Conference on Disarmament
on behalf of the European Union

FMCT

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(Check against delivery)
EU STATEMENT ON FMCT

Mr. President,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the European Union and the Accessing Countries Bulgaria and Romania. Since this is the first time I speak during your Presidency I wish to congratulate you on the assumption of the post as President of the Conference on Disarmament. Let me also express our gratitude to your predecessors in 2006 for their tireless work during their tenure. I can assure you -- as well as the incoming CD Presidents -- of our full support in your efforts to guide and lead this august body.

Mr. President,

The ongoing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament remains a matter of serious concern. The existing and new threats to peace and security require that this standstill be overcome. This is essential. The EU is strongly committed to reaching consensus on a programme of work in the CD and welcomes the fact that new ideas and proposals have been put forward over the last few years. We appreciate these efforts aimed at promoting consensus for a programme of work and support the efforts to that end of the six Presidents of the CD this year which constitute a welcome step towards bringing the CD back to substantive work. The EU welcomes the discussion that took place during the structured debate focussed on nuclear disarmament and looks forward to continued active discussion on the other topics. We also wish to highlight the important role that could be played by the Friends of the Presidents in assisting the six Presidents on specific topics and activities by making use to the fullest extent of their capacities. In addition, the EU would like to recall its attachment to the follow-up of the enlargement process of the CD -- and in particular to those members of the EU which are not yet members of the CD, as well as candidate countries which have submitted a request for admission to the Conference.

The EU attaches a clear priority to the negotiation, in the Conference on Disarmament, of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as a means to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. We call again for the immediate commencement of negotiations as well as an early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, universally applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear
explosive devices, without pre-conditions, and bearing in mind the special co-ordinator's report and the mandate for an ad hoc committee contained therein. Pending entry into force of an FMCT, the EU calls on all States to declare and uphold a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and welcomes the action of those four States which have decreed such moratoria.

The EU looks forward to the upcoming structured debate focused on FMCT and hopes that delegations will respond positively to the appeal of the Presidents of the CD to participate actively in the discussion, including through the presence of experts and submission of working papers. The EU would also favour the participation of the IAEA to provide information on the FMCT issue in accordance with para. 41 of the Rules of Procedure.