Thank you, Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of the Secretariat,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to convey my delegation’s best wishes for the New Year to all of you.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia congratulates India, and you personally, Ambassador Dr. Anupam Ray, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the 2024 session. We trust that your able leadership and astute stewardship will guide our work for the 2024 session of the CD, and we assure you of Malaysia’s full support and cooperation.

3. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new colleagues namely; H.E. Mr. Tormod Cappelen Endresen of Norway, H.E. Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox of Finland, H.E. Mr. Bilal Ahmad of Pakistan and H.E. Ms. Tomiko Ichikawa of Japan to the CD family and hope our delegation can continue to work closely with each other in progressing CD related issues.

Mr. President,
4. I would also like to record Malaysia’s sincere appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Margit Szücs of Hungary, the last CD President of 2023 in marshalling consensus that had led to the successful adoption of the 2023 Annual Report of the CD as well as the resolution on the CD Annual Report in the UN General Assembly. In our discussion pursuant to the presentation of my credentials to Ambassador Szücs on 8 November 2023, we agreed that the consensus achieved for the Annual Report could be a small, yet significant step to achieve consensus in more substantial issues in the CD this year.

Mr. President,

5. Malaysia is of the view that the disarmament machinery must remain fit for purpose against the backdrop of deteriorating global security environment and rising global geopolitical tensions. Thus, an effective and functioning CD, is needed now, more than ever, to live up to its position as the sole multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. Regrettably, since Malaysia’s acceptance as a CD Member State on 5 August 1999, we have yet to participate in any treaty negotiations in the CD. Nevertheless, Malaysia will continue to engage constructively in the CD and support all efforts undertaken that will contribute towards general and complete disarmament.

6. Malaysia regards nuclear disarmament as our top priority due to the devastating effects of nuclear weapons on the whole world. If we can eliminate a whole class of weapon systems in the CD through the biological and chemical weapon conventions in the past, I believe that progress on the topic of nuclear disarmament this year will be able to re-energize the CD as a whole. Additionally, we are hopeful that progress can be made on other critical issues in the disarmament fora, such as Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space, and negative security assurances.

7. In closing, it is my fervent hope that the year 2024 will bring a new impetus to rejuvenate the CD, and all Member States will demonstrate greater political will, build trust amongst one another, as well as exercise utmost flexibility and compromise to advance the substantive work of the CD. I look forward to a productive session under your leadership and the rest of the Presidencies this year.
Thank you.