

## **CANADA**

Conference on Disarmament – General Statement 2021

19 January 2021

President,

We have been working closely with you and the other 2021 P6 since last summer in an effort to shape a suitable proposal for the 2021 session of the Conference on Disarmament. The package proposal circulated by the Secretariat on 18 December outlines what we believe to be an appropriate framework for pursuing meaningful work in the CD over this year. This proposal acknowledges that at present there is no item on the CD agenda on which all member states are prepared to launch negotiations. Given this reality, the package offers CD members a fairly intense series of meetings on all the agenda items with the goals of both clarifying national positions along with possible means of advancing to negotiations in one or more areas.

While it is the case that Canada sees potential for initiating treaty negotiations on the issue of fissile materials, we are open to negotiations on other core agenda items, if consensus can be found. We can see no other way forward, within this forum, for member states to get to consensus on an eventual negotiation except through discussion, complemented by political direction from our capitals that delegations facilitate such an outcome.

Thank you.