



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

**Statement on FMCT
by the Permanent Representative of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament,
Ambassador Peter Beerwerth,
on 20 May 2021**

Mr President,

- At the outset, I would like to express Germany's full alignment with the Statement by the European Union on FMCT. To underline the importance of starting negotiations on FMCT without further delay, we would like to share some additional national remarks.
- Nuclear disarmament, ultimately leading to global zero, is only possible through a step-by-step approach. That has been the long-standing position of my country. It is shared by many others.
- And, there are many steps that need to be taken, some smaller some larger.
- Last year, the Stockholm Initiative presented a roadmap to advance nuclear disarmament. These practical steps – ranging from risk reduction and verification all the way to further stockpile reductions –

also include a call for negotiating a treaty prohibiting fissile material production.

- Such a treaty would have a direct impact on both, non-proliferation and disarmament. It remains one of the key elements to build trust; and is an indispensable step towards a world free of nuclear weapons.
- In view of the differing opinions on the scope of the treaty the only feasible approach to negotiations on such a treaty is a mandate that leaves this issue to be agreed upon in the course of the negotiations – the Shannon mandate.
- Important progress has been achieved, in the 2014/15 GGE, the 2017/18 High-Level Expert Preparatory Group, and in the 2018 subsidiary body 2 in the CD. We need to build upon that success and maintain the momentum.
- So there is a solid foundation for negotiations in the CD. It all depends now on political will.
- At the same time we call again on all relevant States to declare and uphold moratoria on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This prevents the window for negotiations from closing further.
- Starting negotiations on an FMCT is a long overdue step. It is in our collective interest, it is possible, it is pragmatic. Let us start **now!**

Thank you Mr President.