Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to exercise my right of reply against the interventions we have just heard from some delegations.

We understand that we need to underline our position once again.

Therefore, I would like to start once again by explaining the reasoning behind our non-approval of a certain request for observer status in the CD.

We believe that most of the delegates will recall the opening of the 2019 session and how the request of Palestine for observer status was blocked by a few members.

While doing so, at the request of some countries, established practice of treating observer applications in a blanket list was eroded.

Their basic argument was that they did not recognize Palestine as a State.

We were surprised since we only heard of this matter in the Plenary on that day.

At this point, I would like to remind that Turkey does not recognize “Greek Cypriot administration” which does not represent the entire Island.

Nevertheless, last year we were respectful, as some CD members exercised their sovereign rights.

Therefore, we only registered our support for the application of Palestine and reminded that there was a more constructive way of doing this instead of blocking
the observer status. That is as we had done in the past by not rejecting the request, but instead registering our position via a letter or Note Verbal.

Also, many delegations registered their support for the request of Palestine, while all of them were kind enough to not to define the rejection of the request as a “blockage”.

It was surprising to see that those European States and EU who remained silent last year preferred to intervene this year on this particular situation.

It is also surprising to be accused with politicizing the Conference when we also exercised the same right exactly as others did last year.

Mr. President,

We do not see any difference between the request of Palestine and the others in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of this body.

We have no doubt that last year the distinguished Secretary General of the Conference, the Deputy Secretary General and the Secretariat including the Presidency had completed necessary checks regarding the list of applicant countries for observer status.

That list was including the request of Palestine. This means Palestine was found eligible to apply for observer status.

When one is to talk about observer applications, Palestine and Greek Cypriot administration have the same status before the CD.

Therefore, we were compelled to change our position after the development in the last year.

In that regard, Turkey can not accept any double standards.

To reply the German colleague, I would say that the negative president regarding observers was made last year, not this year.

Thank you.