



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

24 February 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President.

-I would like to congratulate you and thank Belgium for their efforts.

-I would also like to thank Ms. (Tatyana) Valovaya, Secretary-General of the Conference, and her team.

-Global peace and security rely on disarmament and non-proliferation. That is why a web of treaties and arrangements has been woven over time.

-However, the disarmament and non-proliferation regime is under stress. We regret that the Conference has been in a stalemate for more than two decades. It is high time to overcome polarization and realize the potential of this august body.

-We need to start with agreeing a Program of Work. Turkey is ready to work on a non-discriminatory and verifiable **treaty to ban the production of fissile material that** takes into account the legitimate security concerns of all members.

-Neither the rules of procedure nor the membership is the real problem. First, we should make this platform **functional**. Then we can move on to other issues.

-And for the comments on the observership request of one entity, we have already shown flexibility and revised our position this year. We announced several times that we are ready to return to the old practice which allows us to accept observers through a blanket list without citing observer requests one by one.

Dear Colleagues,

-A few words on existing treaties:

-On NPT: achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends on its successful implementation. Universalisation of NPT is crucial.

-We will work towards a successful outcome at the upcoming NPT Review Conference.

-We will also continue to support all efforts on the establishment of a **nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East**.

-Second: We call on the remaining Annex 2 States of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to sign and ratify it urgently.

-At this point, we welcome the **extension of the New START Treaty**. We hope this important decision will contribute to the efforts to strengthen the arms control regime.

-The world is eagerly waiting for good news also on **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**. We reiterate our support to its implementation, call on all parties to fulfill their obligations and refrain from activities inconsistent with their commitments.

-Third: **Chemical Weapons Convention**. We condemn in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Those responsible for the **chemical weapons attacks in Syria** must be held accountable for their crimes.

-Last but not least, Turkey also reiterates its support to the **Biological Weapons Convention**. It should be reviewed with current realities and challenges in mind. The pandemic has reminded how important this instrument is.

-This brings us to Covid-19. Our collective experience shows that combatting the pandemic relies on solidarity and **multilateralism**. Cooperation and search for **joint solutions are key** to our societies' overall safety and security. We cannot think of a better venue than the Conference on Disarmament to make that happen.

-I assure you of Turkey's full support to advance the work of the Conference.

Thank you.