



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

21 January 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President.

-Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the first presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I assure you of Turkey's full support and cooperation in your endeavours to advance the work of the Conference.

Mr. President,

-The overall security situation as well as international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture has unfortunately deteriorated and trust among parties has further eroded in the last years. Hence, the stakes for achieving positive and result-oriented work at the Conference are higher than ever.

-We are of the opinion that the stalemate that we are living in has not been created by the procedures, membership issues or international dynamics of the Conference. Turkey is convinced that the Conference possesses the mandate, rules of procedure and membership to deliver its duties.

-What we need is the strong political will to resume its fundamental task, namely to negotiate legally binding international treaties.

- We are glad to see that your presidency is following up on the efforts that have been started by Algerian Presidency. We would also like to thank you for the revised draft package which we are considering positively.

-The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Turkey considers that the achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends first and foremost on the successful implementation of the NPT regime.

-We must advance towards that goal through practical steps, consensus and with active participation of nuclear weapons possessor states as well as non-possessor states.

-The NPT Review Conference will provide an opportunity for State Parties to strengthen and reiterate their commitments to the NPT, and so efforts on nuclear disarmament. Turkey is ready to work towards achieving a successful outcome at the Review Conference.

-Turkey is also concerned that the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has yet to be implemented. Turkey will continue to support constructive efforts in this direction.

-About the observership of one entity, I would like to remind you that Turkey does not recognize the Greek Cypriot Administration, which does not represent the entire island.

-Turkey is a member which continued to act constructively in an environment where the Program of Work was not accepted yet. We would have expected the same constructive approach from the other CD members. Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

-We are ready to maintain our positive stance, to return back to the old practice, and accept observers list as a blanket. This is a major breakthrough. We are expecting from the Members to acknowledge this constructive approach in this year.

-To conclude, let me reiterate our support to Belgium and the future Presidents of the session before us and wish you all success.

Thank you.