Mr. Chair,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

The challenges to the rules-based international order and global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture continue unabated. Important arms control instruments have either eroded or become defunct in the past few years.

We need to change this course, by upholding international norms, fully implementing obligations and commitments, restoring dialogue and promoting transparency and confidence-building measures. Turkey will continue to support effective multilateralism.

Mr. Chair,

After five decades of its entry into force, the NPT remains the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Turkey calls for strengthened implementation of NPT across its three pillars and its universalization. We look forward to holding the postponed 10th Review Conference as early as possible, with a view to producing tangible results.

Turkey is committed to the goal of systematic, progressive, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament. As a member of Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), we pledge our support and contribution towards achieving a successful outcome at the Review Conference.

We welcome the extension of the New START Treaty until 2026 and the strategic stability dialogue process initiated between the Russian Federation and the United States.

We also reaffirm our strong support for the establishment of a zone in the Middle East free of WMD and their delivery systems. We take note of the conference process that was initiated in November 2019, which will convene for the second round in November.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is essential for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In its 25th year, we expect that the CTBT will enter into force as soon as possible. We encourage the remaining Annex II States, to sign and ratify the Treaty without delay.

Mr. Chair,
The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains a major achievement for multilateralism and non-proliferation efforts. We call for the preservation of this instrument and encourage the parties to resume the diplomatic efforts in Vienna.

Turkey expresses its grave concerns with the nuclear and ballistic missile program of the DPRK. We fully support a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the DPRK. We expect a return to dialogue and negotiations between the parties.

Mr. Chair,

We strongly condemn the repeated use of chemical weapons in Syria, which constitutes a crime against humanity.

We welcome the two reports of the IIT, which established the responsibility of the Syrian regime in chemical weapons attacks that took place in Ltamenah in March 2017 and Saraqib in February 2018.

IIT’s work is crucial for the efforts towards accountability.

The Syrian regime should fully cooperate with the IIT and the OPCW Technical Secretariat regarding its chemical weapons program and stockpiles and fulfill its legal obligations.

Turkey welcomed and supported the decision adopted at the Conference of States Parties last April, which aims to bring the Syrian regime back to compliance with the CWC.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey reaffirms its strong support to key instruments such as Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and calls for strengthening their implementation.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey is committed to the effective implementation and strengthening of the Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW and the International Tracing Instrument. Arms Trade Treaty is also an important instrument in this area.

We welcome the successful conclusion of 7th Biennial Meeting of States Parties (BMS7) and look forward to achieving further tangible progress next year during BMS8.

The consensus agreement on a report by the GGE on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus is also a welcome sign.

Turkey is fully committed to the implementation of the “Ottawa Convention” and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).
Mr. Chair,

Peace and security in outer space can only be achieved through prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We need to increase international cooperation and establish standards of responsible state behavior in outer space.

Turkey is highly concerned with the growing threat the malicious use of ICTs poses to international peace and security.

We welcome the adoption of reports both in Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) and the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) which contribute to the existing body of work in this area.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the effective functioning of the UN Disarmament Machinery is crucial for a cooperation-based understanding of security. First Committee is an important pillar in this regard.

Turkey is ready to contribute to achieving much needed progress on a wide range of issues in our agenda, and calls for a spirit of collegiality, cooperation and compromise.

Thank you.