STATEMENT BY TURKEY

6TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

13 DECEMBER 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your Presidency at the 6th Review Conference. We assure you of our support.

The Convention constitutes an essential instrument for the International Humanitarian Law on conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects.

Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is party.

Annual compliance reports are valuable tools for confidence-building, transparency, cooperation and assistance. Turkey always elaborately delivers its national reports on time and encourages all High Contracting Parties to do so.

Mr. President,

Turkey has been a target of heinous terrorist attacks and its struggle for countering IEDs has been going on for several decades.

Unfortunately, we well know that the use of IEDs by illegal armed groups and terrorist organizations has indiscriminate effects and devastating impacts at all levels, especially on civilians. Without any discrimination, we must combat terrorism in solidarity and cooperation.

Turkey attaches great importance to hindering illicit transfer, stocking, possession and use of explosives.

Amended Protocol II is the right forum to address the challenges posed by the IEDs. We appreciate and expect the issue be kept high on the agenda and further exchange should continue to be part of the High Contracting Parties’ deliberations during the next review cycle.
We would like to commend the efforts of Ambassador Ogasawara and IED Coordinators for updating the 2016 political declaration on IEDs.

Mr. President,

As High Contracting Parties, we had reached significant progress on the challenges posed by the emerging technologies on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) in 2019 by endorsing eleven guiding principles which show our shared understanding of the issue.

Turkey believes that the CCW is the appropriate forum to address the challenges posed by the emerging technologies on LAWS by bringing together all the relevant expertise and stakeholders.

We regret that substantive recommendations could not be agreed upon after many informal meetings and 20 days of Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS this year.

We urge countries to show political will and flexibility in order to move on. We should continue to discuss the issue constructively under the CCW.

Mr. President,

Turkey acknowledges that Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM) are legitimate weapons. They must be used in conformity with international Humanitarian Law and that all feasible precautions should be exerted to protect civilians from the effects of these weapons.

Mr. President,

We appreciate your efforts to develop proposals for stabilizing the Convention’s finances. Turkey has always met its financial obligations under the Convention on time. We urge States Parties not to allow financial issues to dominate the short and precious time available.

We look forward to a Review Conference that will pave the way for productive work during the next review cycle to further the object and purpose of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.