EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY TURKEY ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Mr. Chairman,

I have requested the floor to explain our position on the draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.41 entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament” which has just been adopted without a vote.

Turkey attaches great significance to the work of the CD and sincerely hopes that it will be able to resume its negotiating role as the primary multilateral disarmament forum. We expect the remaining obstacles standing on the way of implementation of the Program of Work of the CD to be removed soon, so that the CD could embark on its substantive work on the fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations, on negative security assurances and prevention of arms race in outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

The aforementioned draft resolution which has just been adopted contains this year again a reference to the question of expansion of the CD membership. We, however, believe that expansion of the CD membership is not a priority at this stage. As it is rightly pointed out in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, the CD has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation and we believe that expansion of the CD is not one of them. In particular, at a time when the CD has not yet overcome the existing stalemate, we should all strive to work towards ensuring the effective functioning of the CD rather than dedicating our precious time and energy on other matters of less significance and urgency.

This, of course, should not be interpreted as Turkey’s categorical opposition to the enlargement of the CD. Rather, we believe that this matter should be addressed on a case-by-case basis, with due consideration to be given to the contributions of candidates to international peace and security.

The wording in the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution therefore should not be construed as a change in Turkey’s well-known position on this question.

Thank you.