Thank you Mr Chairperson,

Turkey fully endorses the joint statement by the NPDI countries, which I have just delivered. I now would like to highlight a number of additional points in my national capacity.

Mr Chairperson,

Turkey is resolutely committed to the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Our security policies exclude the production and use of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Their proliferation is a matter of serious concern to us. We are party to all international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes. We support their universalization, as well as effective implementation in good faith and consistency. On Turkey's part, we enjoy a strong record in the implementation of our non-proliferation obligations.

In the nuclear front, Turkey regards the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. We are fully committed to the implementation of the NPT in all its three mutually reinforcing pillars, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We, therefore, actively contribute international efforts aimed at strengthening the global non-proliferation regime in all its three pillars.

Turkey is a strong advocate of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament policies. As a country at the threshold of its own nuclear energy program, we also strongly support the greatest possible enjoyment of the benefits of nuclear energy for all States that are in full compliance with their international obligations. Measures that we collectively take to ensure nuclear non-proliferation must in no way hinder international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and access to nuclear technology, equipment and material for peaceful purposes. While we remain strongly focused on ensuring the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials globally, we need to equally ensure the continued benefits that these materials and their related applications offer. This is crucial for countries like Turkey, which need to integrate nuclear power into their energy supply mix in order to meet growing domestic demand.

Mr Chairperson,

The successful conclusion of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, entry into force and ongoing implementation of the new START, commitment to and progress achieved in securing nuclear and other radioactive materials through the Nuclear Security Summit process and finally the momentum achieved by the ratifications of the CTBT are positive developments, giving us hope for further achievements in the future.

Despite the positive atmosphere generated by these developments, the longstanding stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) unfortunately continues. Turkey wishes to see the immediate resumption of substantive work in the Conference. There is an urgent need to come up with a consensual Program of Work. Such a development will not only pave the way towards the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT, but also materialize parallel advances on other agenda items.

At this critical stage, Turkey believes that the problems faced by the CD are not a result of its procedures or its internal dynamics. We have to acknowledge the existence of an overall problem in regional and international disarmament fora and with respect to
the global disarmament machinery in general. The stalemate in the CD is the reflection of the strategic bottlenecks at different but interrelated levels. Therefore, at this stage, we should approach the situation with a broad and progressive vision and not dilute our focus on the main substantive issue by introducing additional points of contention into our deliberations.

Certainly, the resumption of the substantive work of the CD with the consent of all its members will contribute to the improvement of international efforts for nuclear disarmament. To this end, we should try within the CD to generate more mutual understanding and confidence, while not dismissing possible developments outside the CD.

Possible benchmarks for the sustainability of the NPT in the long run include universalization of the Treaty, strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system, reinforcement of export controls, early entry into force of the CTBT, resumption of FMCT negotiations without further delay and -last but not least- peaceful settlement of the cases of non-proliferation concern through dialogue and diplomacy. An overall reduction of the global stockpiles of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI, in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner is also of key importance.

Proliferation of WMD and their delivery means becomes all the more worrying in the context of terrorism. The international community needs to remain vigilant about the risk of acquisition by terrorists of WMD and their delivery vehicles. Recognition of the importance of ensuring peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the best security, safety and non-proliferation conditions, and of the crucial role of the IAEA in this respect, is also essential.

Another important priority is the establishment of effectively verifiable zones free of nuclear weapons and other WMD wherever feasible. Given the volatile and unstable situation in the Middle East, developing a common regional understanding on the establishment of such a zone in this region is all the more important. The 2012 Conference to be organized in Helsinki to discuss this prospect will be an initial step in a long process, the success of which will depend on the genuine political engagement of all States in the Middle East from the very beginning.

A successful NPT Review Conference, a constructive Middle East NWFZ Conference, the end of the stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament, better and more effective application of the IAEA Statute and further positive developments at the CTBT front, will bring us closer to our objective of a world free of nuclear weapons and thus make the world a safer place to live.

Mr Chairperson,

In 2012, we have an important opportunity to make progress on all these fronts. For a better future, nations should rely on the reconciling effect of cooperation and dialogue among themselves rather than the deterrent impact of nuclear arms. Global peace and security can be achieved only through common vision and interdependence, not the balance of nuclear terror. Turkey is prepared to work together with other States parties in this forum and elsewhere towards the achievement of this vision.

Thank you.