Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, at the outset, to add my voice to others who have congratulated you for the assumption of the Presidency of the Second PrepCom. You can count on Turkey’s support during the discharge of your duties.

Mr. Chairman,

We live in a world where security has become indivisible. We all benefit from a secure environment and suffer from its absence. Contrary to old thinking, we are living in an era where one cannot argue that more arms would bring more security. There lies the virtue of disarmament.

We have common issues, common challenges, sometimes even common threats. We must collectively strive to address them. Our ability to respond efficiently to the pressing challenges to international peace and security depends mostly on how we make best use of multilateral fora, including the Review Process of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

With this mindset, 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. Their proliferation is a matter of serious concern to us. Turkey is 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.

Turkey considers the NPT as the cornerstone of global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We are fully committed to the implementation of the Treaty in all its three mutually reinforcing pillars, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We actively contribute to international efforts in these spheres.

As a country at the threshold of its own nuclear energy program, Turkey supports 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 the growing domestic demand.

Mr. Chairman,

Following the successful conclusion of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a positive atmosphere prevailed. We had a comprehensive Action Plan at hand. Besides, the entry into force and ongoing implementation of the new START and commitment to and progress achieved in securing nuclear and other radioactive materials through the Nuclear Security Summit process have given us hope for further achievements in the future.

Unfortunately, 2013 is already proving to be a difficult year in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. We are going through important regional and global challenges. On a more global level, it is a truism that nuclear weapons exist in gruesome numbers and there is a looming risk of proliferation. The important test of striking a balance between disarmament and non-proliferation stands before us.

To be able to cope with the current challenges, Turkey believes that the existing mechanism needs to be strengthened and where necessary, effectively revitalized.

We can unfortunately not talk about a significant progress vis-à-vis 2010 Action Plan. There are shortcomings in the field of transparency. To this end, we wish to call upon the Nuclear Weapon States of the Treaty to expedite their steps aiming to bring about tangible results. An overall reduction of the global stockpiles of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI, in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner and the elimination of these weapons from military doctrines are of key importance if we wish to realize the aspiration of Global Zero.

Another important priority is the establishment of effectively verifiable zones free of nuclear weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, wherever feasible. We hope to see all Nuclear Weapon States affiliating themselves with the existing Treaties establishing such zones.

At this stage, allow me to underscore the disappointment of Turkey for the postponement of the 2012 Middle East Conference. It is Turkey's sincere expectation that the Conference takes place at the earliest convenience, since this initiative can prove to be not only an important confidence building measure at this critical stage in the Middle East, but also a significant stimulus to the NPT Review Process. To this end, we call on all relevant states to undertake a constructive approach and exert genuine efforts for the expeditious realization of this Conference. Turkey's unwavering support to the Facilitator and his team will continue.

At the non-proliferation front, possible benchmarks for the sustainability of the NPT in the longer 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 PMCT negotiations without further delay and - last but not least - peaceful settlement of the cases of non-proliferation concern through dialogue and diplomacy.
The longstanding stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) unfortunately remains. Turkey wishes to see the immediate resumption of substantive work at 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 facilitate parallel advances on other agenda items.

Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction 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 these weapons and their delivery vehicles.

Last but not the least, we remain concerned by the risk that nuclear weapons pose for humanity. The participants of the recent Oslo Conference have been further acquainted with the horrific consequences of a nuclear use or accidental detonation. Turkey believes that a robust awareness should be raised at the international level so that future generations do not have to fear for the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Turkey welcomed the discussions at the Oslo Conference and look forward to actively participating to the follow-up.

Mr. Chairman,

There are challenges, but we need to strive to transform these challenges into opportunities. We hope that the second half of 2013 turns out to be a year of progress. For a better future, nations should rely on the reconciling effects of cooperation and dialogue among themselves. Global peace and security can only be achieved through common vision and interdependence, not the so-called “nuclear deterrence”. Turkey is prepared to work together with other States Parties in this forum and elsewhere towards the achievement of this vision.

Thank you.