STATEMENT BY TURKEY

at

the 1st Preparatory Committee
for the 2020 NPT Review Conference

Cluster I debate

(5 May 2017, Vienna)
Mr Chairman,

Turkey regards the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Turkey remains fully committed to its objectives and provisions with its three pillars, its further strengthening and universalization.

We once would like to reiterate our call to those outside the NPT to accede to the Treaty without conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.

We are convinced that the achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends first and foremost to the successful and universal implementation of the NPT regime. While we acknowledge frustration especially regarding pace of progress on nuclear disarmament, we are also convinced that the NPT has proven its use and success.

At the beginning of a new review cycle, we should identify areas where we can all work together as nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states.

Our work obviously does not start from scratch. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 Action Plan identified the main goals in three pillars.

Like the previous review cycle, Turkey will continue with its Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) partners, to promote the implementation of consensus outcomes of the 2010 Action Plan. Working papers have been submitted on issues including on transparency, FMCT and disarmament education.

Mr Chairman,

The undesirable shortcomings demonstrate the realm of nuclear disarmament is by no means disconnected from the real world. It is inherently linked to existing tensions among actors, divergent threat perceptions and interplay among scores of different dynamics. The prevailing international security environment must be taken into account.

No single step can suffice in our global efforts for nuclear disarmament. Our approach is focused on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to disarmament. Constructive engagement of all relevant parties is a must to achieve complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament also requires the promotion of practical and effective confidence building measures. Turkey, together with a group of countries, has submitted suggestions from the perspective of progressive approach.

Turkey supports systematic, progressive, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament and encourages all states that possess nuclear weapons to take further steps in accordance with Article 6. In this regard, we hope the United States and the Russian Federation will continue their efforts in order to achieve further reductions in their nuclear arsenals.
Last years have witnessed sharpened differences of opinion. On our part, we will continue working towards the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan. It is crucial that the NPT and current NPT Review Cycle not be undermined by efforts undertaken elsewhere.

Mr Chairman,

The cessation of all nuclear weapon tests constitutes an important step towards both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, I would like to stress the centrality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We call upon all States to uphold and maintain moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. Despite all the progress achieved at the political and technical levels, we regret the fact that twenty years after its opening for signature, it has yet to enter into force.

We once again encourage all States, in particular to the remaining Annex II States whose ratifications are required for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Another essential step will be the commencement of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on the basis of the document CD /1299 and the mandate contained therein. This will again serve both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes. In this context, we welcome the establishment of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group whose mandate is to make recommendations on substantial elements for a future treaty, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations.

Although the CD could not negotiate a treaty for the past two decades, it remains the single multilateral negotiating forum. (The CD needs to be revitalized so that it can assume substantive work and start negotiating as it has been mandated. We welcome all efforts to bring the CD back to work. It is Turkey’s firm conviction that the CD has the mandate, membership and the rules of procedures to discharge its functions.)

Turkey also supported the UN General Assembly resolution on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and welcomes the establishment of the Group of Experts. We deem multilateral nuclear verification capabilities necessary for realization and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. It is with this understanding Turkey participates in the International Panel on Verification of Nuclear Disarmament (IPNDV).

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned is an important non-proliferation and disarmament measure.

A pending critical commitment of the 1995 Review Conference is the convening of an International Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We deeply regret that the 2012 Middle East Conference did not take place. Turkey reaffirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East.
This commitment will continue to be a critical element of this review cycle. We call on all relevant states to undertake a constructive approach and exert genuine effort. We should avoid the disappointment of 2015 Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to reaffirm the relevance of the NPT and the importance of continued progress towards achieving its key objectives. Turkey will be forward-looking, constructive and focusing on common ground to advance our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.