Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Austrian Government for hosting this important event. We would also like to thank panelists who have rendered highly illuminating and thought-provoking presentations.

My government supports the Conference Process on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Turkey was represented in Oslo and followed the stimulating discussions in Nayarit.

Mr. Chairman,

In Oslo, Nayarit and now in Vienna, we all share the fact that horrific consequences of a nuclear disaster caused by detonation remain as a major threat which needs a holistic global approach.

We see this Conference as a ground-breaking event, in the sense that it takes up the sensitive issue in a comprehensive manner and highlights the appalling consequences of a nuclear disaster caused by accidental or intentional detonation.

As with Oslo before it, the Conference of Nayarit succeeded in presenting a fact-based approach to facilitate an informed discussion of these effects.

Unfortunately, we are still living with the stark truth that nuclear weapons exist; and they exist in gruesome numbers. And there is a considerable potential for proliferation. The risk of these weapons falling into the hands of unauthorized actors including terrorists is indeed alarming.

Full and irreversible nuclear disarmament is naturally the answer.

However, we need to be realistic. Realizing this goal will take time.
While we aim towards the goal of complete nuclear disarmament, we should strive to establish an effective and well-functioning international cooperation and solidarity. Only through coordinated efforts among all the stakeholders can we mitigate the risk.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a fact that the overall disarmament system is not functioning as well as we would have wished. There are flaws with the system; some components of the system needs urgently a comprehensive fix. Yet, we would be remiss if we get away with what we achieved in the last 50 years and set on devising a new one.

The idea of introducing a new instrument is not only illogical but practically very difficult and unproductive. Any new initiative will have to be complementary and in line with the already-existing mechanisms and attain at least the level of universality of the NPT, if not more.

The P5 countries have an undeniable responsibility towards nuclear disarmament. Special attention also needs to be given to the nuclear weapon states outside the NPT regime. This fact highlights once again the importance of the universalization of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

An incremental, step-by-step approach through building blocks is a productive way to attain nuclear disarmament. An important confidence building measure is the establishment of Weapons of Mass Destruction-free zones.

As the representative of a country in the vicinity of the Middle East, I would like to underline the importance of convening the 2012 Conference at the earliest convenience.

In the 2010 NPT Review Conference, we promised for a new world with diminished and controlled nuclear capabilities. Frankly speaking, if we don't deliver that promise, we fear the credibility of the NPT will seriously be jeopardized.

It is our shared responsibility to work together in a meticulous manner to eliminate all shortcomings and to revitalize the system where necessary.

Thank you!