



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY
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TO THE
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like, at first, to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chair of the 1st Committee and extend our best wishes for a successful completion of our works under your able guidance.

Mr. Chairman,

A new security environment came about in the post Cold War period. In this new environment, the unique threat emanating from one bloc and directed to the other is replaced with multifarious, uncountable, non-conventional, asymmetric risks and threats. Ethnic and religious fundamentalism, organized crime, trafficking of human beings, drugs and weapons, environmental disasters, terrorism and proliferation of WMD have become the daily security issues.

The September 11 attacks demonstrated the tenuousness of the new strategic environment. Governments and world public opinion realized that terrorism could be devastating to our societies if it is equipped with WMD. The horror of "dirty bombs" started to haunt our governments. This, in turn, increased our vigilance on the proliferation of WMD and their delivery means.

Mr. Chairman,

In principle, Turkey favors global, overall disarmament. In view of this ideal, she supports all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

My country, which is close to regions posing high risks of proliferation, takes a firm stance against proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

It is important to maintain and if need be, strengthen the legal framework and redefine and expand the basic parameters of the international instruments and export control regimes.

Turkey is a party to all the instruments and regimes in the field of WMD and gives full support to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

We consider the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Therefore, Turkey calls on the countries, which remain outside the Treaty to accede to it and on those which have lapsed in implementation, to fully comply with Treaty obligations.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's international safeguard system is an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We call upon all states that have not yet done so, to conclude additional protocols with IAEA and we support all initiatives to strengthen the conditions of supply in highly sensitive nuclear equipment and technology. In this vein, Turkey supports the proposal to make the Additional Protocol a condition of supply.

Mr. Chairman,

Establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones is a measure against proliferation of nuclear weapons, envisaged in Article VII of NPT.

Turkey supports the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones wherever practically feasible. Assurance of total absence of nuclear weapons and other WMD in a particular geographical area would have direct positive implications on the security concerns of the states in that specific region.

In this context, Turkey supports the idea of creating a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East and encourages all efforts for having a common regional understanding on this project with the participation of all parties concerned.

Mr. Chairman,

We view Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty an important aspect of the international nuclear safeguards regime.

Therefore, we call upon the remaining 11 states to become party without delay to this treaty in order to make way to the entry into force of CTBT sooner rather than later.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey attaches special importance to the negotiation of a non-discriminatory and universal treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT).

The banning of the production of such material would strengthen both nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and thus international security.

In the Conference of Disarmament it is essential to start negotiations on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein (Shannon Mandate), of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosives.

Mr. Chairman,

The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small and light weapons also pose a significant threat to peace and security as well as to the social and economic development of many communities and countries.

It is generally believed that on average half a million people are killed each year with small arms. According to the Small Arms Survey 2004, among these, 300 000 people are said to die in armed conflicts, and 200 000 in events not attributed to conflict situations.

We will continue to actively contribute to all efforts within the UN and other fora to foster international cooperation and the evolution of effective norms and rules to combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Turkey, cognizant of the dangers posed by small arms and light weapons submitted with Australia and Argentina the Draft Resolution on MANPADS. Turkey holds the view that the international community must work together to avoid this type of technologically advanced small arms and light weapons from falling into wrong hands. Therefore I am confident that this draft resolution will benefit the full support of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to the threats posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, we are fully conscious of the human sufferings and casualties caused by the irresponsible and indiscriminate use of anti-personnel land mines.

Turkey, in a joint action with Greece, became party to the Ottawa Convention on the 1st of March 2004. Yet, mine clearance activities are being implemented in Turkey since 1998, and the work to clear all deployed mines is planned to be completed by 2014, in line with our commitments arising from the Convention.

Furthermore, we have initiated consultations with our neighbours in order to start a de-mining process in our borders.

Mr. Chairman,

As the co-sponsor of Resolution 58/41, Turkey fully shares the objective of improving the effectiveness of working methods of the First Committee in line with the threats which have become more apparent for the international community.

The current international security environment is increasingly defined by risks and threats of international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means, regional instabilities and conflicts, organized crime and all forms of extremism.

Streamlining of the work of the main committees is an important dimension of the UN reform, which we support.

All member states have a stake in this process. It would be useful to put behind the disagreements on the modalities and to begin focusing on structural and administrative matters aiming for pragmatic results.

Establishing trust, enhancing our common understanding and taking stock of the experience gained from this restructuring exercise should be the guiding elements at this stage.

Thank you.