



STATEMENT BY MR. KERIM URAS
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GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
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Madame Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your well deserved election. You can be assured of my delegation's full support as you steer the work of the Committee to its successful conclusion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Under-Secretary-General, Ambassador Tanaka and wish him every success in his new post.

Madame Chair,

Turkey has already aligned itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore elaborate on some issues from our national perspective.

Turkey favors global, overall disarmament and supports all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Turkey is a party to all international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes and wishes to see the **universalization and effective implementation** of these instruments.

Located in a region of particular concern with respect to proliferation, Turkey monitors with vigilance the developments in this field and takes part in collective efforts aimed at devising measures to reverse this alarming trend.

Despite the failure of the Review Conference last year and recent developments contesting its standpoint, Turkey believes that the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** (NPT) is still a unique and irreplaceable multilateral instrument, the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. We should exert every effort to protect its integrity and credibility. Turkey sincerely hopes that the new review cycle of the NPT to be initiated next year will prepare the ground for a successful Review Conference in 2010, through an early agreement on many pending issues.

In this respect, Madame Chair, let me underline the critical and indispensable role of the **International Atomic Energy Agency**. Turkey remains convinced that the verification authority of the Agency should be further strengthened and the Model Additional Protocol should be adopted as the universal norm for verifying compliance with the NPT.

Turkey supports the establishment of an effectively verifiable zone, free of WMDs and their means of delivery in the **Middle East** and encourages all efforts for developing a common regional understanding on this project, with the participation of all parties concerned.

Turkey welcomes the establishment of a **Nuclear Weapon Free Zone** by five Central Asian states, last September.

Turkey also welcomes the extension of the mandate of the **1540 Committee** and will continue to support its work, which we believe complements the global efforts against the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

Turkey regards the **Proliferation Security Initiative** as an important cooperative action complementing the existing mechanisms enshrined in various international instruments and export control regimes. We will continue to support this initiative.

Similarly, Turkey has also voiced its support for the recently announced **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism** and expressed its readiness to host the second meeting of this Initiative in Turkey.

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. A more comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach should include the issue of existing stockpiles and verification.

Turkey considers the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** and **the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)** as two important components of the global system against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Non-accession of some states to these conventions continue to pose a serious challenge to global security. Once again, we reiterate our call for a wider adherence to, and an effective implementation of these conventions.

The Chemical Weapons Convention proved to be an effective instrument for prohibiting and eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under a strict and efficient international verification and control mechanism. Compliance by signatories to the deadlines established for the verifiable destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles remains essential.

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Review Conference will commence in Geneva this November. We believe that the BTWC also needs to be strengthened with a verification mechanism.

The progressive increase in the range and accuracy of ballistic missiles make the proliferation threat all the more worrying. Turkey believes that the **Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC) against ballistic missile proliferation** constitutes a practical step towards an internationally accepted legal framework in this field. We wish to see the universalization of the HCOC endeavour.

Madame Chair,

Conventional Weapons Proliferation is also a cause of concern for Turkey. The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) pose a significant threat to peace and security, as well as to the social and economic development of many countries. There is also a close relationship between the illicit trade in SALW and terrorism. Turkey will continue

