Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you on the assumption of the first Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in 2013. I wish you every success in your endeavours to advance the work of the CD this year.

We listened carefully to the message of the UN Secretary General. As customary, the Secretary General’s message contains wise recommendations on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and encourages the CD to move forward.

Mr. President,

The CD is indeed a unique platform. It has a special responsibility in the contemporary disarmament agenda. We should all strive to maintain the relevance of the Conference by fulfilling its fundamental task.

In this regard, we hope that the Conference will resume substantive work as early as possible in 2013.

Mr President,

Turkey commends the efforts of the President aiming to prepare the ground for fruitful work.

The problems faced by the CD are not created by its procedures or internal dynamics. We need, more than ever, mutual understanding and creative thinking against the background of important developments at global level.

Our agenda is comprehensive and flexible, enabling us to address all issues in
the field of arms control and disarmament.

Our next step must be to agree by consensus on a Program of Work. This will not only pave the way towards the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT, but also materialize parallel advances on other agenda items. These include substantive work on the core issues, namely nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in outer space and negative security assurances.

Mr. President,

2013 will be an opportunity to pursue the resolutions relating to advancing some of the items on the CD’s agenda;

-Firstly, we welcome the resolution adopted at the first Committee last year to establish a GGE on FMCT.

-Secondly, we trust that the open-ended working group on “taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations” will develop concrete proposals to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.

-Thirdly, we believe that high level meeting on nuclear disarmament which is scheduled to be held on September 26, this year will contribute to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Furthermore, 2013 is also important since the second preparatory meeting of the 2015 NPT RevCon will be held in Geneva this year.

Mr. President,

As for the other recent initiatives in disarmament issues, we regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. So, we call upon all concerned to continue to work with the facilitator and conveners in order to hold this Conference early this year.

To conclude, let me reiterate our support to Hungary and the other P-6 states and wish you success.

Thank you, Mr. President.