Mr. President,

Thank you very much for your words of welcome. As this is the first time I am addressing the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency and assure you of our support.

Let me extend my regards to the Secretary General of Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Kassym Comart Tokayev. I also want to thank my colleagues for their warm welcome. It is an honor for me to join the Conference on Disarmament.

Turkey is resolutely committed to the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. Our security policies exclude the production and use of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Their proliferation is a matter of serious concern to us.

In order to address today's challenges and enhance our security in a volatile environment, multilateral efforts towards disarmament and non-proliferation are indispensable. Multilateralism, is not a matter of choice but rather a matter of necessity.

Our ability to respond effectively to the pressing challenges to international peace and security depends heavily on how we make best use of international fora, including the Conference of Disarmament.
Mr President,

The CD has a special responsibility in the contemporary disarmament agenda. We should 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.

We see the recently established Informal Working Group as an indication of a shared goal of the need to come up with a consensual Program of Work urgently. We hope the Informal Working Group can generate more mutual understanding and confidence, thus, create the much needed breakthrough and move the Conference ahead into negotiations.

Starting negotiations on FMCT will be a significant building block in the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It will further pave the way for parallel advances in the other core agenda items.

Mr President,

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize another issue, we attach great importance. That is the establishment of Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We regret the Conference on this subject was postponed. We call once again upon all concerned to continue to work with the facilitator and conveners in order to hold this Conference as early as possible.

Mr. President

There are challenges, but we need to strive to overcome the current stalemate. I am prepared to work with you in the CD towards the achievement of our common vision.

Thank you.