

NPT 2. PREPATORY COMMITTEE  
GENERAL STATEMENT OF TURKEY  
23 APRIL 2018

Mr Chairman,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. I assure you of our support and cooperation in discharging your duties.

Turkey aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the NPDI.

I will read out an abridged version of my speech. The full text will be posted electronically.

We reaffirm the importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. As a country that is party to all major international non-proliferation instruments and regimes, Turkey remains committed to the full implementation and further strengthening of the Treaty with its three pillars.

At the mid-point of this review cycle, our priority is to uphold NPT as a major instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability and to promote its universalization. We are committed to our mandate to strengthen disarmament, non-proliferation and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 Action Plan identified the main goals in these three pillars.

Mr Chairman,

Turkey supports systematic, progressive, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament and encourages all states that possess nuclear weapons to take further steps in this direction. The primary responsibility rests with the Nuclear Weapon States.

It is essential to preserve the progress made during the last 30 years and to advance them further. Today we find ourselves in a very complex and volatile security environment. This requires more than ever that all States Parties to act in restraint and opt for solutions through diplomacy and negotiations.

We welcome the completion of reductions by the United States and the Russian Federation under the New START treaty. We hope further disarmament and arms control measures will be brought to life, after the New START Treaty expires in 2021.

We would like to reiterate our call to the states outside the NPT regime to accede to the Treaty without conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.

We remain committed to a world without nuclear weapons. In our opinion this can not be achieved without taking the reality of the international security environment into consideration. Our approach is focused on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to disarmament. Last years have witnessed sharpened differences of opinion, coupled with unproductive polarization. On our part, we will continue working towards the

implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan. Sanctity of the NPT and current NPT Review Cycle should not be undermined by efforts undertaken elsewhere.

Mr Chairman,

The cessation of all nuclear weapon tests constitutes an important step towards both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, we would like to stress the centrality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)). We call upon all States to uphold and maintain moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. Despite all the progress achieved at the political and technical levels, we regret the fact that twenty one years after its opening for signature, CTBT has yet to enter into force.

We once again encourage all States, in particular to the remaining Annex II States whose ratifications are required for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Another essential step will be the commencement of negotiations of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices at the Conference of Disarmament (CD). This will again serve both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes. We welcome the work of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group in this regard.

CD needs to be revitalized so that it can assume substantive work and start negotiating as it has been mandated. We welcome all efforts to bring the CD back to work and recent decision to establish subsidiary bodies to explore common ground. It is Turkey's firm conviction that the CD has the mandate, membership and the rules of procedures to discharge its functions.

Turkey also supported the UN General Assembly resolution on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and welcomes the establishment of the Group of Experts. We deem multilateral nuclear verification capabilities necessary for the realization and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. It is with this understanding that Turkey participates in the International Partnership on Verification of Nuclear Disarmament (IPNDV).

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned is an important non-proliferation and disarmament measure.

A pending critical commitment of the 1995 Review Conference is the convening of an International Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Turkey reaffirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East. This commitment will continue to be an essential element of this review cycle.

Mr Chairman,

IAEA Safeguards is a vital component of the global non-proliferation regime. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) and its Additional Protocol are the essential tools establishing a solid verification standard.

We call on those states that have not yet done so, to sign, ratify and implement their CSAs and Additional Protocols without further delay.

Turkey underscores the crucial role of export controls to support the fulfilment of nuclear non-proliferation obligations of NPT.

Unfortunately, last year the nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches continued to be carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions. While we welcome the recent period of restraint, we also urge the DPRK to comply with its international obligations in full and also to return to the NPT at an early date and IAEA Safeguards, to ratify CTBT.

The agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is a significant diplomatic achievement for peace and stability not only for the region but also on a global scale. It testifies to the continued relevance not only of the NPT, but also of the practice of solving disagreements through diplomatic means. It is noteworthy that all reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency confirm Iran's compliance. The Plan has been successful and it should be preserved. We are concerned about the ongoing uncertainty regarding the future of the JCPoA.

The risk of acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery means by terrorists and other non-state actors should not be underestimated. We need to remain vigilant and cooperate to avoid possible attacks involving nuclear and radiological materials. UN Security Council Resolution 1540, complemented by resolution 2325, remains a key part of the non-proliferation architecture. As a party to all export control regimes, Turkey deems them to be invaluable tools.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey strongly supports the inalienable rights of states to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nuclear safety and security are both national responsibilities. Keeping a high level of safety and security with respect to nuclear facilities and material are conducive to extending the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology globally.

The IAEA, by administering international nuclear safeguards in accordance with the NPT, has a pivotal role in the non-proliferation regime. It also has a leading role in strengthening the international nuclear security framework.

The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the most direct and tangible service of the Agency, geared towards introducing and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology worldwide, in conformity with Article IV.

As an embarking country, Turkey has concluded both a CSA and Additional Protocol with the IAEA. The Broader Conclusion obtained from the Agency in 2012, confirming that all nuclear materials in Turkey have remained in peaceful activities, proves the high standards that Turkey's system of accounting and control of nuclear material has reached.

We also welcome the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey, together with its partners at the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), will continue to play a constructive role in bridging positions during the 2020 NPT

Review Cycle. The NPDI has submitted for consideration at this PrepCom, several working papers such as safeguards, transparency, strengthening the review process.

Before I conclude, I would like to express our sincere wish for the success of this PrepCom. It provides us an opportunity to start looking for common areas to make progress. We are here to reaffirm the relevance of the NPT and the importance of continued progress towards achieving its key objectives.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPT's opening to signature. Along these years, despite many challenges, the Treaty has made progress. It has found ground for compromise in order to advance our shared goal of a more secure world. This should continue to be our basis.

Thank you.