



Statement by Turkey

IInd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference Cluster I debate

(26 April 2018, Geneva)

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Mr Chairman,

Turkey regards the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. .

Turkey remains fully committed to its objectives and provisions with its three pillars, its further strengthening and universalization.

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

We are convinced that the achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends first and foremost to the successful and universal implementation of the NPT regime.

At the mid-point of a new review cycle, we should identify areas where we can all work together as nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states.

Our work has a sound foundation. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 Action Plan identified the main goals in three pillars.

Like the previous review cycle, Turkey will continue with its Non Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) partners, to promote the implementation of consensus outcomes of the 2010 Action Plan. NPDI has submitted several working papers, including transparency.

Mr Chairman,

No single step can suffice in our global efforts for nuclear disarmament. The prevailing international security environment must be taken into account. Our approach is focused on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to disarmament. Constructive

engagement of all relevant parties is a must to achieve complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament also requires the promotion of practical and effective confidence building measures.

Turkey supports systematic, progressive, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament and encourages all states that possess nuclear weapons to take further steps in accordance with Article VI.

Last years have witnessed sharpened differences of opinion. On our part, we will continue working towards the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan. It is crucial that the NPT and current NPT Review Cycle not be undermined by efforts undertaken elsewhere.

Mr Chairman,

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 note the announcements by the parties that they have met the central limits of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). We encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to extend this Treaty and seek further reductions to their arsenals.

Mr Chairman,

The cessation of all nuclear weapon tests constitutes an important step towards both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, I 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 years after its opening for signature, it 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 on 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 on Disarmament (CD) on the basis of the document CD /1299 and the mandate contained therein. This will again serve both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes. In this context, we welcome the establishment of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group whose mandate is to make recommendations on substantial elements for a future treaty, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations.

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 realization and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. It is with this understanding Turkey participates in the International Panel 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. We deeply regret that the 2012 Middle East Conference did not take place. 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 a critical element of this review cycle. We call on all relevant states to undertake a constructive approach and exert genuine effort. We should avoid the disappointment of 2015 Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to reaffirm the relevance of the NPT and the importance of continued progress towards achieving its key objectives. Turkey will be forward-looking, constructive and focusing on common ground to advance our shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.