

**Statement by Turkey**  
**III<sup>rd</sup> Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference**

(1 May 2019, New York)

**Check against delivery**

Mr Chairman,

I congratulate you on your assumption of your duties and assure you of our full support and cooperation.

(Turkey aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the EU and a group of countries read by Belgium)

The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has proven its success. Next year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPT's entry into force. Despite many changes in international politics, it remains a key multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability.

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 all its three pillars.

We repeat our call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty. We also appeal to all States Parties to implement their Treaty obligations and commitments, in full and as undertaken at the previous Review Conferences.

Mr Chairman,

Today we find ourselves in a very complex and volatile security environment.

We need constructive, inclusive and transparent dialogue more than ever, so that we can prevent the deterioration in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. In any case though, duplicating existing structures should be avoided. The right way forward lies in making best use of them.

We are in a certain stalemate on non-proliferation and disarmament matters. This is unfortunately true for the NPT Action Plan as well.

Moreover, we are witnessing an incremental erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. The state of the INF Treaty is a case in point. We are concerned with such developments, as we have highlighted together with our NATO Allies, and will continue to call for responsible behavior on the matter.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was endorsed through the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) following lengthy negotiations, is an important diplomatic achievement for the region and on a global scale. The International Atomic Energy Agency continues to confirm Iran's compliance, and we continue to firmly believe that the Plan should be preserved.

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. Extension of the New START will be an important step in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the two summits held between the United States and the DPRK as well as the three inter-Korean Summits in 2018. We hope that the diplomatic process on the Korean Peninsula will continue for complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. We call on the DPRK to comply with its international obligations in full and also to return to the NPT at an early date, including to IAEA Safeguards, and to ratify the CTBT.

Mr Chairman,

The cessation of all nuclear weapon tests constitutes an important step towards both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We stress the centrality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The moratoria on all nuclear explosions, including for test purposes, should be upheld by all. We deeply regret the fact that CTBT has yet to enter into force. We once again encourage all States, in particular the remaining Annex II States, 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 of Disarmament (CD). We welcome the work of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group in this regard.

CD needs to be revitalized so that it can perform its function as a negotiating platform. We support all efforts to this end. Turkey conducted the sixth and last Chairmanship of CD last year with that understanding. It is our firm conviction that the CD has the mandate, membership and the rules of procedures to discharge its functions.

Turkey deems multilateral nuclear verification capabilities necessary for the realization and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. It is with this understanding that we participate in the International Partnership on Verification of Nuclear Disarmament (IPNDV).

We welcome that consensus was found on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Verification.

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.

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 as invaluable tools.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey, as an embarking country, strongly supports the inalienable rights of states to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

While nuclear safety and security are both responsibilities of the individual state, Turkey recognizes that, the use of nuclear energy must be accompanied at all stages by commitments to, and ongoing implementation of safeguards.

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.

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 those on promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy, FMCT, disarmament education and strengthening the review process.

To conclude I would like to express our sincere wish for the success of this PrepCom. This is the third and last PrepCom meeting ahead of the next year's Review Conference. Therefore, it is especially important to find common ground at this meeting in order to advance our shared goal: a nuclear free weapon world.

Despite many challenges, the Treaty is an accomplishment. We should all work in good faith to consolidate and strengthen this reality.

Thank you.