



Statement by Turkey
IIIrd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference
Cluster I
(2 May 2019, New York)

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Mr Chairman,

In our General Statement yesterday, we stressed the importance of the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Turkey remains committed to the full implementation and further strengthening of the Treaty with all of its three pillars, which are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty without conditions, as non-nuclear-weapon States. We also appeal to all States Parties to fully implement their Treaty obligations and the commitments, as undertaken during previous Review Conferences.

Turkey strongly believes that the achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends primarily on the successful and universal implementation of the NPT regime.

Mr Chairman,

At this last PrepCom of this review cycle, it is important that we strive to identify practical and tangible convergences as nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states.

There is already a sound basis for this work. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 Action Plan identified the main goals in three pillars.

Turkey will continue with its NPDI partners, to promote the implementation of consensus outcomes of the 2010 Action Plan.

Mr Chairman,

There is no single step that would sufficiently achieve the goal of global nuclear disarmament. The prevailing international security environment must be taken into account. We must focus on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to disarmament. Constructive engagement of all relevant parties is necessary 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 this direction. The primary responsibility rests with the Nuclear Weapon States in this regard.

In this connection, we encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to engage without further delay in a dialogue with a view to extending the New START Treaty and seek further reductions in their arsenals.

What we need today, as more than ever, is a constructive, inclusive and transparent dialogue in order to prevent the worsening in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. Instead of duplicating existing structures, we should make best use of them.

We are concerned with the developments, such as incremental erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. The state of the INF Treaty adds to our concerns, as we have highlighted together with our NATO Allies. We will continue to call for responsible behavior on the matter.

Mr Chairman,

The cessation of all nuclear weapon tests constitutes an important step towards both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, the centrality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) cannot be overemphasized. We call upon all States to uphold and maintain moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. We regret the fact that twenty three years after its opening for signature, the CTBT has yet to enter into force.

We once again encourage all States, in particular the remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the CTBT 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). We welcome the work of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group in this regard.

We reiterate our support to all efforts to revitalize the CD. Turkey conducted the sixth and last Chairmanship of CD last year with this 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. 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 an essential 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,

While concluding, 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.