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OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament,

Distinguished Ambassadors and Delegates,

Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are **critical enablers** for **global safety, security and peace**.

They are of even greater value during **times of instability and uncertainty**.

In her part of the world, **Turkey is directly confronted by a multitude of risks** and threats.

We are fighting various **terrorist organizations at the same time**, from DEASH to the PKK/PYD and FETO, while the **conflict in Syria** is almost in its ninth year.

We currently host over **3,6 million displaced people**, and have spent more than **37 billion US Dollars** for their needs. As a responsible member of the international community, **we are proud to have done so** and will **continue to do our best**.

The Conference on Disarmament was established **forty years ago**, when global security was again faced with **many challenges**.

It is a **unique platform**, especially in addressing matters related to weapons of mass destruction.

Leading multilateral arrangements on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were all negotiated in this body. This is an **important legacy**.

These agreements may not make headlines today, but in reality, they are the **cornerstones of international peace and security**.

**Steps to undermine them will not benefit anyone.**

There is **great polarization** in disarmament fora today. Traditional confidence building and transparency measures are **no longer functioning as planned**.

Meanwhile, **advancements in science and technology** have increased the challenge and associated risks.

This is **a problem to which we cannot turn a blind eye**.

Mr. President,

Achievement of the **ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons** depends first and foremost on the **successful and universal implementation** of the NPT.

All of our **joint commitments** in that matter, including on convening an International Conference "**for weapons of mass destruction free Middle East**", should be met.

Three **pillars of the NPT** [*1.non-proliferation, 2.disarmament, 3.peaceful use of nuclear technology*] are equally **critical** and should be addressed in a **balanced manner**.

States that are in **full compliance** with their international obligations have the **right to utilize the benefits of nuclear energy**.

The **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is crucial** for global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. We, once again, call for its **urgent ratification by all relevant parties**.

Mr. President,

It is our **common responsibility** to make use of this important platform.

We will need to be **more flexible**, in a **spirit of mutual ownership** and **collective responsibility**. We need to start by agreeing on a **Program of Work**.

Turkey is also ready to work on a **non-discriminatory and verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material**. Indeed, such a treaty should take into account the **legitimate security concerns of all CD Members**.

Mr. President,

As the **sixth and last President** of the Conference **last year**, we worked hard to prepare a **mutually acceptable, substantive** report.

However, **non-substantive issues did not allow to capitalize on the achievements of last year**. With that experience in mind, we **urge all CD members** to contribute to this platform through **constructive engagement**.

Our **priority** should be to make this platform in its current composition, **functional and efficient again**.

That is the **spirit in which Turkey will continue to approach** this body.

Thank you Mr. President.

