

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

31 January 2023

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Thank you, Mr. President.

We would like to start by thanking you for your endeavor to hold two thematic sessions relating to the outstanding agenda items of the Conference on Disarmament.

Given the current challenging international security and disarmament outlook, we believe that the meeting is timely and of critical importance.

Mr. President,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Türkiye considers that the achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends first and foremost on the successful implementation of the NPT regime.

We must advance towards that goal through practical steps, consensus and with active participation of nuclear weapons possessor states as well as non-possessor states.

Unfortunately, the State Parties failed to adopt a final document in the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which was held between 1 and 26 August 2022.

We remain committed to the NPT in all its three pillars and look forward to successful Preparatory meetings in the upcoming period.

It is important that the NPT preserves a crucial balance through the two aspects of its overarching objective regarding peaceful uses.

Mr. President,

Türkiye remains committed to a world without nuclear weapons.

In our opinion this cannot 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.

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.

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 as agreed at the 1995 Review Conference is therefore an important step forward.

Türkiye reaffirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East as agreed in the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and will continue to support constructive efforts in this direction.

We encourage the countries of the Middle East to continue dialogue in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. President.