



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

**Thematic debate on  
Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament  
16 May 2023**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Madam President,

Thank you for organizing this thematic debate on an important agenda item of the Conference on Disarmament.

We continue to support your endeavor to move forward the substantive discussions under this genuine forum.

As nuclear disarmament remains a priority matter for the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, it is timely and relevant to hold this Session.

Madam President,

Türkiye, as a member of major treaties and initiatives in this field, is committed to the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Our ultimate goal remains a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the provisions of the NPT, including Article VI, in an ever more effective and verifiable way that promotes international stability, based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

We support an approach focused on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to nuclear disarmament.

The Treaty also provides a fundamental framework for advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The full implementation and strengthening of the NPT across its three pillars as well as the universalization of the Treaty is of utmost importance to my country.

We also believe that there is a greater need for more detailed information related to nuclear weapons by all nuclear-weapon States to reduce tension and build confidence among NPT States Parties.

Although we are disappointed that a final document was not adopted at the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty held in August 2022, progress on issues of technical nature, such as the decision on strengthening the review cycle is valuable.

With this background, we look forward to the upcoming NPT First PrepCom in Vienna this summer.

Madam President,

I would like to take this opportunity to stress our position on some outstanding issues in this field.

1. The developments regarding Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant are a matter of concern. We support the IAEA's efforts for the safety and security of the said nuclear power plant.
2. The establishment of WMD-free zones on the basis of arrangements among the States of the regions concerned is an important non-proliferation and disarmament measure. Türkiye maintains its commitment to the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East in line with the decision of the 1995 Review Conference.
3. We reaffirm our firm support for the reinstatement of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
4. The ballistic missile and nuclear programs of the DPRK are gravely concerning for regional and international peace and security.
5. We firmly believe that a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing is an important step towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. We reiterate our call upon particularly the remaining Annex II States, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as soon as possible.

6. Starting negotiations on a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material that takes into account the legitimate security concerns of all members will be a significant step in nuclear disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons.
7. Export control regimes are essential tools for a robust non-proliferation architecture. Türkiye is party to all export control regimes and firmly supports the effective implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.
8. The international community should remain vigilant regarding the risk of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery means by terrorist organizations and other non-state actors, which poses a serious threat to regional and global security.

With these considerations, I would like to thank you again, Madam President, for the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic.