



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

**Thematic debate on nuclear risk reduction
23 March 2023**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam President.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Finland on assuming the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament (CD). You can count on our delegation's full support during your term.

We also thank you for holding this debate timely on a very important topic as well as the panelists for their valuable contributions.

Madam President,

In recent years, arms control and disarmament instruments witnessed several developments to move forward nuclear agenda.

The initiation of the Strategic Stability Dialogue between the US and the Russian Federation was an outstanding opportunity for a strategic risk reduction.

The Joint Statement of the leaders of P5 on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races was another source of hope in sustaining the global peace and security.

Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine led to the erosion of the positive steps taken towards this end in the past years.

We support the IAEA's efforts for the safety and security of the nuclear power plants, including Zaporijya.

Recently, the decision of the Russian Federation to suspend its participation in the New START was another development in the general deteriorated disarmament context.

We underscore the importance of the continuation of dialogue including among the P5 for nuclear risk reduction and prevention of a nuclear war.

Any action that can increase the tension should be avoided.

Madam President,

I would like to share our position on some of the outstanding elements of nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament, which we believe could contribute to our discussions.

1. The NPT remains as the cornerstone of the global nonproliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. State Parties should demonstrate the necessary political will to reaffirm and reinforce our legal and political commitments stemming from the NPT and its Review Conferences. Progress also on issues of technical nature, such as the recent decision on strengthening the review cycle is valuable. As such, we look forward to the upcoming NPT First PrepCom in Vienna this summer.
2. Our ultimate goal should remain 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, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

3. An approach focused on incremental steps that deliver concrete results contributing to nuclear disarmament should be supported.
4. While recalling the special responsibility of the Nuclear Weapon States with the largest arsenals, the need for further reductions by all states possessing nuclear weapons in their nuclear arsenals as a practical measure would be a welcome development.
5. All nuclear weapon tests must be ceased. While calling upon for moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and other nuclear explosions, we encourage all States, in particular the remaining Annex II States to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as soon as possible.
6. Progress in multilateral nuclear disarmament requires the promotion of practical and effective confidence building measures. Dialogue, confidence-building, and transparency measures regarding nuclear capabilities and doctrine are important in order to reduce the risk of misperception, miscalculation or misunderstanding.
7. Nuclear weapon-free zones are instrumental for global disarmament and nonproliferation objectives. All States possessing nuclear weapons should provide robust negative security assurances, including the legally binding assurances provided via protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.
8. Challenges posed by emerging technologies are also worrisome. All appropriate measures related to the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials and facilities in order to prevent their acquisition by terrorists should be taken.
9. Export control regimes play a critical role in meeting nuclear non-proliferation obligations.
10. We appreciate the role and professionalism of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in carrying out its mandate. It is essential that all NPT States Parties strictly adhere

to their safeguards obligations. We also continue to support efforts for the reactivation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

11. Last but not least, it is regrettable that the DPRK continues with its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in violation of the related UN Security Council resolutions. We urge the DPRK to take urgent steps to abandon these programs and return to full compliance with its NPT obligations.

We would like to conclude by once again thanking you, Madam President, and the panelists for the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic.

Thank you.