

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the esteemed members of the Bureau on your election.

You can count on my delegation's full support.

We are in a period of persistent political instability. Challenges around us have placed considerable strain also on effective multilateralism and the disarmament architecture.

This year we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As such, it is also a sobering period to remember the need to preserve the integrity and relevance of established disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

Mr. Chair,

The wars in Ukraine and Gaza challenge the very principles we seek to uphold: protection of civilians, peaceful resolution of disputes and the ultimate pursuit of a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

After years of intense conflict with immense humanitarian consequences, the war in Ukraine continues to have profound global implications for international peace and security, while adversely affecting European security.

Hence, we must persist in seeking a peaceful and negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Our unwavering commitment to diplomacy is guided by the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and the imperative of ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

Türkiye will continue with its diplomatic efforts to that end.

We welcome the ceasefire in Gaza announced on October 9, and the efforts of the United States, Egypt and Qatar. Ceasefire should be fully implemented. Humanitarian aid should go into Gaza without any restriction,

recovery and reconstruction should be launched right away. A lasting peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through a just settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We hope that the momentum achieved in the ceasefire negotiations will also contribute to the realization of a two-state solution in the coming period.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye remains committed to the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons and to ensuring safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Yet, this process demands realism, sustained engagement, and the active participation of nuclear-weapon States.

The path towards a world without nuclear weapons is not easy, and even with the strongest political will of all states, could take years to achieve.

In the meantime, reducing nuclear risks is critical. That is not an alternative to efforts towards nuclear disarmament, but to ensure that nuclear weapons will never again be used, even while they exist.

We remain committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its full implementation across all three mutually reinforcing pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses.

The upcoming 2026 NPT Review Conference provides another important opportunity to advance the Treaty's objectives. Türkiye remains committed to contributing constructively to efforts towards and during the Review Conference for a successful transition towards the subsequent review cycle, upholding the Treaty's integrity and credibility, as well as maintaining the momentum on its universalization.

Türkiye regards the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as another cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. We reiterate the importance of its universalization and urge the remaining Annex-II States to take the necessary steps towards its entry into force, and for all countries to uphold the moratorium against nuclear testing. As we approach the special 30th anniversary, it is worth recalling the motto "One Treaty. One Goal. Zero Tests".

As the expiry date of the New START is approaching, we welcome recent political statements for continuation of adherence to numerical limits and remain supportive of efforts and engagement for a follow on arrangement.

Recent situation in the Middle East, including the de facto recognition of nuclear weapons possession by a non-NPT state also reaffirms the urgency of pursuing a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as envisioned in the 1995 Review Conference and the 2010 Action Plan. The international community must amplify efforts alongside all willing regional partners to advance this long-standing goal.

Mr. Chair,

Despite the current situation with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Türkiye continues to believe that concerns related to Iran's nuclear program should be settled through dialogue and diplomacy. We reiterate the need for all relevant parties to engage in negotiations for reaching a follow on arrangement, and remain supportive of efforts in that regard.

At the same time it also remains essential that the IAEA will continue to fully exercise its monitoring and verification activities in accordance with its mandate, and that its credibility and professionalism be upheld.

We also reiterate our serious concern regarding the continued development of the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We firmly support the goal of complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In this context, we call for the resumption of meaningful dialogue and negotiations among the relevant parties.

Mr. Chair,

After years of obstruction by the former Syrian regime, the political situation since 8 December has opened a window of opportunity for the OPCW to establish a more effective working relationship in Syria. This new dynamic provides a basis to address longstanding issues related to Syria's chemical weapons programme and to advance sustained compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We welcome the ongoing cooperation and engagement between the Syrian authorities and the OPCW. We also take note of the concept plan prepared by the Syrian authorities for the destruction and verification of any remaining chemical weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye places high priority on strengthening international cooperation in the realm of conventional weapons. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (SALW), alongside the International Tracing Instrument.

We regard the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a key instrument for fostering responsible arms transfers and enhancing transparency. Türkiye is a member of all export control regimes and maintains a robust and comprehensive export control system.

Türkiye remains firmly committed to counterterrorism and to advancing international cooperation in this domain. We urge all stakeholders to take

concrete measures to prevent the diversion of arms to terrorist entities, which undermines regional and global security.

The evolving applications of emerging technologies, particularly Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) powered by artificial intelligence, remain a matter of strategic importance.

Türkiye is committed to ensuring that principles of responsible use including ethical safeguards, meaningful human control, and compliance with applicable international law and norms guide all AI-related developments, including in the military domain.

We also reaffirm our support for advancing norms of responsible state behavior in outer space, and for strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures in this increasingly vital domain.

The escalating scale and sophistication of cyber threats underscore the urgent need for collective action and responsible state behavior in the digital domain.

The continued proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems poses a serious threat to international peace and security. Of

particular concern is the risk of such weapons and the materials used in their manufacture falling into the hands of terrorist groups and organizations. Türkiye attaches high importance to collective efforts aimed at reversing this alarming trend and reinforcing the global non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, let me recall as well the *Pact for the Future* which we welcome as a landmark initiative that also reaffirms the centrality of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control in the UN's vision for global peace and security.

We stand ready to contribute constructively to the work of the UN First Committee.

Thank you.