

“MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM ACQUIRING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION”

Terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction represents a grave and intolerable danger to international peace and security. The use of such weapons would inflict indiscriminate and catastrophic harm on civilians, infrastructure, public health systems, and the environment.

Their use would create consequences that extend far beyond national borders, destabilizing entire regions, undermining confidence among states, and generating long-term humanitarian, economic, and political disruption. For these reasons, the international community must remain united in preventing any terrorist actor from acquiring, developing, or using such weapons, as this would constitute a profound violation of the most fundamental principles of humanity, human dignity, and the rule of law.

Türkiye has long regarded support for global arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation efforts as one of the principal pillars of its foreign policy. Guided by its commitment to international peace, stability, and collective security, Türkiye has consistently attached great importance to the strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, Türkiye is a party to nearly all major arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation instruments, including those related to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Türkiye’s commitment is further demonstrated by its membership in all major export control regimes, through which it contributes to efforts aimed at preventing the illicit transfer of sensitive materials, technologies, and expertise. By adhering to these frameworks, Türkiye reaffirms its determination to uphold international norms, strengthen transparency and cooperation, and prevent the misuse of dangerous materials by state and non-state actors alike.

Türkiye is a member of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) in the context of nuclear export control regimes. For the purpose of nuclear non-proliferation, it is mandatory to obtain a permit from the Nuclear Regulatory Authority for the export of materials, equipment, systems, components, and related technology specially designed or prepared for use in the nuclear field, as well as nuclear dual-use materials, equipment, systems, components, and related technology. The relevant matters are regulated within the scope of the “Regulation on Nuclear Export and Nuclear Import Control” published in the Official Gazette dated 9/10/2025 and numbered 33042. In addition, the export, import, carriage, and transit of radioactive materials are also subject to the permit of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

This longstanding and principled policy reflects Türkiye’s conviction that genuine security can only be achieved through multilateral cooperation, responsibility, and respect for international law. Türkiye therefore remains firmly committed to advancing international efforts to reduce the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction and to promote a more secure and stable world for all.

Türkiye has been a State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons since 1979, reflecting its longstanding commitment to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Türkiye’s Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency entered into force in 1981, and its Additional Protocol has been in force since 2001. These legally binding instruments underscore Türkiye’s continued dedication to ensuring that all nuclear material and activities under its jurisdiction remain exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Activities related to nuclear safeguards are carried out within the scope of our country’s international obligations, national legislation, and regulatory framework for the purpose of nuclear non-proliferation. Accordingly, the procedures and principles regarding the national

nuclear material accounting and control system by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, in order to ensure the notification, detection, and tracking of the inventory of nuclear materials used for peaceful purposes and equipment and materials specially designed or prepared for the nuclear fuel cycle within the borders of the Republic of Türkiye, and to prevent the unauthorized act or misuse of these materials, equipment, and materials, or their conversion into nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and to ensure the timely detection of such attempts, have been regulated by “Regulation on Nuclear Safeguards” published in the Official Gazette dated 19/11/2022 and numbered 32018.

Türkiye highly values its continued close cooperation and engagement with the IAEA across all areas within the Agency’s mandate. In this regard, Türkiye takes note with satisfaction of the IAEA’s broader conclusion regarding its safeguards implementation, which confirms that all nuclear material and activities in Türkiye are used for peaceful purposes. This recognition reflects Türkiye’s transparency, responsible stewardship, and adherence to the highest standards of non-proliferation.

Türkiye also continues to advocate for the universalization of the NPT and the Additional Protocol, as these instruments constitute essential pillars of the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture. Türkiye believes that broad and universal adherence to these agreements is indispensable for strengthening international confidence, enhancing verification, and advancing the shared objective of a world free from the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Türkiye has been a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention since 1997 and committed to the full and universal implementation of its obligations under this instrument. Türkiye attaches great importance to the complete prohibition of chemical weapons, as well as to the effective prevention of their development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use under any circumstances. In Türkiye’s view, the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, and its integrity must be preserved through collective compliance and strengthened international cooperation.

Türkiye is also a State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention since 1974, and continues to support its principles and objectives with full conviction. Türkiye is actively engaged in the process initiated at the Ninth Review Conference in late 2022, including the adoption of a Roadmap designed to advance work on specific elements of the Convention in the period leading up to the next Review Conference. Türkiye considers this process an important opportunity to strengthen the Convention’s effectiveness, enhance international confidence, and address emerging biological risks in a manner that is both practical and forward-looking.

Türkiye believes that both the CWC and the BWC constitute indispensable pillars of the global regime against weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, Türkiye reaffirms the importance of sustained dialogue, transparency, and multilateral engagement in order to reinforce the norm against chemical and biological weapons and to ensure that such weapons are never developed or used by any actor, whether state or non-state.

Türkiye ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2000, thereby reaffirming its strong support for the global norm against nuclear testing. Türkiye considers the CTBT to be a vital instrument within the international disarmament and non-proliferation framework, and continues to underscore the importance of its universalization and early entry into force.

While the Treaty has yet to enter into force, owing to the continued absence of ratification by the remaining Annex II States, Türkiye remains firmly supportive of the important work carried out by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its Preparatory Commission. Türkiye believes that sustained political commitment and practical engagement

are essential to preserving the credibility and momentum of the Treaty until its full implementation becomes possible.

Pending the Treaty's entry into force, Türkiye also emphasizes the importance of maintaining and fully upholding voluntary moratoria on nuclear test explosions. Türkiye views such moratoria as an important expression of political responsibility and a valuable contribution to international peace, stability, and the advancement of disarmament objectives. In this regard, Türkiye calls on all States to continue to exercise restraint and to support efforts that reinforce the global norm against nuclear testing.

Türkiye has also been actively engaged in efforts to combat nuclear and radiological terrorism. In this regard, Türkiye has participated in relevant international initiatives, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in the past, as well as the recently launched Global Forum to Prevent Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (Global FTPRNT). Türkiye views such platforms as important avenues for strengthening international cooperation, enhancing preparedness, and promoting collective responses to the evolving threats posed by nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Türkiye is a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, as well as to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and ratified the Amendment to the latter in 2015. These instruments reflect Türkiye's firm commitment to preventing the malicious use of nuclear materials and ensuring the highest possible standards of nuclear security and physical protection. Türkiye considers the effective implementation of these conventions to be essential to the protection of human life, the safeguarding of critical infrastructure, and the preservation of international peace and security.

Within the scope of its international obligations, Türkiye attaches great importance to the establishment and implementation of an effective and sustainable nuclear security regime to prevent, detect, and respond to theft, sabotage, and other malicious acts targeting nuclear and other radioactive materials and all facilities related to these materials. Türkiye resolutely supports international efforts aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and preventing these weapons from falling into the hands of terrorist elements.

Nuclear security measures are taken and implemented within the scope of the relevant national legislation and regulatory framework to ensure the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials. The principles regarding the security measures to be taken for the protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials against theft, unauthorized access, and other malicious acts are regulated within the scope of the "Regulation on the Security of Nuclear Facilities and Nuclear Materials" published in the Official Gazette dated 11/6/2024 and numbered 32573. Furthermore, the principles regarding the physical protection measures to be taken for protection against sabotage and theft during the transport of nuclear materials are regulated by the "Regulation on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials in Transport" published in the Official Gazette dated 22/5/2012 and numbered 28300. The principles regarding the security measures to be taken to prevent situations such as the theft, loss, or acquisition by unauthorized persons of radioactive sources are regulated within the scope of the "Procedures and Principles on the Security of Radioactive Sources". The secondary legislation is compatible with the international agreements to which we are a party and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Security Series documents.

In addition, Türkiye continues to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, which remains a key element of the global effort to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and related materials. Türkiye also participates in the Proliferation Security Initiative, through which it

contributes to international efforts aimed at preventing illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials. Türkiye believes that these instruments and initiatives are mutually reinforcing and collectively indispensable to the global non-proliferation and counter-terrorism architecture.

Türkiye further recognizes that countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes an indispensable dimension of the global non-proliferation effort, since the development, acquisition, and transfer of such weapons depend heavily on advanced technologies, specialized materials, and substantial financial resources. In line with the standards established by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which extended its mandate to encompass the financing of proliferation in 2012, Türkiye implements targeted financial sanctions pursuant to the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. In accordance with FATF Recommendation 7, Türkiye freezes without delay the funds and other assets of any person or entity designated by the United Nations Security Council, and ensures that no funds or other assets are made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of such persons or entities. Financial intelligence mechanisms play a central role in this regard, analyzing suspicious transaction reports and conveying the resulting findings to law enforcement and judicial authorities.

At the national level, these obligations are given effect through Law No. 7262 on the Prevention of the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Pursuant to Article 4 of this Law, an Inspection and Cooperation Commission has been established to ensure oversight and inter-institutional cooperation in its implementation. Chaired by the President of the Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK), the Commission brings together representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (ETKB), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Trade, the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK), the Treasury Controllers Board (HKKB), the National Intelligence Organization, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, and the Capital Markets Board (SPK). To reinforce this framework, Türkiye has adopted also the Strategy Document on Enhancing Effectiveness in Combating the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2025-2029).

Türkiye does not provide any form of support or assistance to any non-state actor that seeks to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transfer, or use weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery. Türkiye maintains a clear and unequivocal position that such activities constitute a serious threat to international peace and security, as well as to the safety and stability of all nations.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems remains a cause of grave concern for Türkiye. In response to this enduring threat, arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament have long constituted essential components of Türkiye's national security policy. Türkiye approaches these issues with the utmost seriousness, guided by the conviction that the prevention of proliferation is indispensable to the maintenance of regional and global security.

Türkiye therefore upholds a policy of zero tolerance toward proliferation in all its forms. This principle reflects Türkiye's determination to prevent the misuse of dangerous materials and technologies, to deny access to such capabilities by non-state actors, and to contribute constructively to the strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime. Türkiye remains firmly committed to supporting collective efforts aimed at eliminating the risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and ensuring a safer and more secure international order.

Türkiye has welcomed Security Council Resolution 1540(2004), and attaches great importance to its implementation, regarding the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Türkiye has provided the Committee with the relevant national implementation reports on 1 November 2004 and 16 January 2006, 1 February 2008, 19 May 2015, 21 December 2016, 10 September 2019, 25 June 2020, 8 February 2023 and 28 November 2025. These documents contain detailed information regarding national measures that are also related to preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Criminal provisions regarding the crimes defined under the international agreements to which our country is a party have been incorporated into our domestic law by the Law No. 7381 as well as the Turkish Penal Code. The provision of Article 24 of Law No. 7381 defines other acts regulated in the Law regarding nuclear materials, radioactive materials, and radioactive waste, as well as manufacturing a nuclear weapon or radiological weapon, possessing, using, spreading the use of, or trading radioactive materials for this purpose as elements of a crime, subjecting them to various criminal provisions.

Türkiye actively participates in the work of the IAEA and other international institutions and organizations to strengthen its national nuclear security regime. In addition to this, bilateral cooperation agreements are concluded with other countries in order to strengthen cooperation in other areas including nuclear security. With a holistic defense approach against threats of weapons of mass destruction, the national Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) response capacity under the coordination of AFAD and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms are continuously updated.

In the coming years, the threat of terrorists using weapons of mass destruction will become increasingly complex, diverse, and difficult to predict, as non-state actors as well as terrorist groups continue to gain access to advanced technologies, specialized knowledge, and illicit procurement networks. Such developments may enable more targeted, covert, and destructive methods of attack, thereby amplifying the potential consequences for international peace and security, as well as for civilian populations, critical infrastructure, and public confidence.

This evolving threat landscape underscores the enduring and growing importance of multilateral cooperation. No single state can address this challenge alone, given its transnational nature and the wide range of actors, materials, and technologies involved. Sustained cooperation among States, international organizations, and relevant technical bodies is therefore essential to strengthen prevention, detection, interdiction, and response capabilities. Only through collective action, information-sharing, and a shared commitment to non-proliferation can the international community effectively mitigate the risks posed by terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction.

In this context, collective and sustained efforts are required to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to strengthen international security through coordinated, comprehensive, and multilateral strategies. The complexity and transnational nature of this challenge demand that all actors maintain close coordination, cooperation, and consultation at both the national and international levels. Only through a shared commitment to dialogue and partnership can the international community build effective responses to the risks posed by proliferation and related threats.

Through multilateral mechanisms issues related to the prevention of nuclear proliferation, as well as security and defense must remain a priority in the years ahead. Such mechanisms provide the essential framework for promoting transparency, reinforcing trust, and ensuring that states work together to prevent the misuse of dangerous materials, technologies, and expertise.

Türkiye therefore believes that sustained multilateral engagement is indispensable to preserving peace, enhancing resilience, and safeguarding the security of all nations.