Statement by Turkey

MEETING OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
12 NOVEMBER 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairperson,

Please allow me to congratulate you, Excellency on your appointment as Chairperson of the Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). You can be assured of our support.

The Convention constitutes an indispensable element of the international law on conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects. Universality of the Convention as such, remains a key objective. Accordingly, Turkey has been seizing every opportunity to encourage adherence to this fundamental international regime. In this context, we welcome the accession of Grenada to CCW.

As a contributing country, Turkey is pleased that the Sponsorship Programme has been functional in promoting further interest in the CCW.

Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is party. Annual compliance reports are valuable tools for mutual understanding, transparency and confidence building. Turkey has been submitting its compliance reports regularly, and would like to encourage all States Parties to do so.

Mr. Chairperson,

Experts had constructive discussions on the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) this week. We also value the expert presentations and other contributions by the Delegations in the Meeting of Experts. The report on IED submitted by the Coordinators is the result of meticulous work, conducted in close cooperation with States Parties. We believe that the Questionnaire on International Cooperation in Countering Improvised Explosive Devices has also been another exemplary
contribution, voluntary replies of countries will definitely shed light on future Works.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the informal discussions on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWs) in April this year. We thank Germany for leading this useful discussions. It has been helpful for us to deepen our understanding in technical, legal, ethical, operational and military aspects of this rather new subject. We prefer to have a renewal of the mandate of another informal Meeting of Experts in 2016 in the framework of the CCW to enhance our understanding of this complex and multifaceted issue. As we stated during the last meeting, CCW is the right fora since it looks for a balance among humanitarian actions and military utility.

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to Mines Other Than Anti Personel Mines (MOTAPM), Turkey acknowledges that MOTAPM are legitimate weapons, which serve important military purposes with regard to self-defense and other military operations.

We respect the work to eliminate the humanitarian impact of MOTAPM. We note the differences of opinion continue over the scope, definition and technical details of MOTAPM.

We believe that existing provisions of AP II and IHL which regulate the use and design of MOTAPM can address humanitarian concerns raised from the irresponsible use of such weapons. So, the balance between military necessities and humanitarian concerns should be searched for and we think that this can be established through full implementation of AP II and IHL.

On the other hand, the possibility of these mines falling into the hands of terrorists is a concern shared by the international community. In that regard, “export control regime” type of regulations could be adopted. In this respect, we already have good examples.

Thank you Mr President.