Mr. Chairman,

Turkey favors global, overall disarmament and supports all efforts towards increased international security and stability through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

Turkey is a party to all major international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes and wishes to see the universalization, effective and coordinated implementation and further strengthening of these measures.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) lies at the heart of these measures. Turkey regards the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We are committed to the full implementation of the NPT in all its three mutually-reinforcing pillars; namely, non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Universalization of the Treaty, strengthening of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, reinforcement of export controls and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty are the essential elements for the sustainability of the NPT regime in the long run.

Turkey welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Colombia, Malaysia, Barbados, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Palau. Turkey has actively been participating in Article XIV Conferences. We call for all States, especially those listed in the Annex-II of the Treaty to sign and/or ratify the CTBT at an early date. Turkey shall continue to advocate for the early entry into force of the CTBT which we see as instrumental in restraining vertical proliferation. We also welcome Iraq's recent decision to sign the CTBT. We look forward to Iraq's ratification of the Treaty at its earliest convenience. We are happy to see increasing participation in the universalisation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments particularly from our region.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the Decisions and the Resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. We are dedicated to full compliance with the NPT regime, including the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocols. We underline the essential and unique role of the IAEA in verifying States’ nuclear non-proliferation commitments and in ensuring development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by those countries aspiring to develop their capacities in this field.

We welcome the satisfactory outcome of the second session of the Preparatory Committee 2010 NPT Review Conference, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008. Turkey will continue to work constructively towards a substantive outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Turkey will also actively contribute to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency during its present tenure in the Agency's Board of Governors.
Turkey also welcomes the establishment of nuclear-free zones, freely arrived at by the countries of various regions. In this context, we support in principle the establishment of an effectively verifiable zone, free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey strongly supports efforts aimed at helping the Conference on Disarmament to resume its negotiating role as the world’s single multilateral disarmament forum. After a decade of impasse, we believe that time is ripe for finally cutting the Gordian knot. During the CD Presidency of Turkey a compromise package contained in document CD/1840 has been submitted on behalf of the 2008 Presidents of the Conference. We continue to hold the view that members of the CD may wish to take this opportunity by commencing negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and bring up any issues that they may deem relevant. The CD may eventually take new initiatives in other areas, including, parallel advances on negative security assurances and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Turkey appreciates the positive steps taken by the NPT nuclear powers towards nuclear force reduction. We insist that this momentum ought to be preserved and the declining role attributed to nuclear weapons should be maintained.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach great importance to the solution of the Iranian nuclear issue through diplomacy. We will continue supporting and facilitating the process.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula remains a regional and global priority. We consider the Agreement of 13 February as an important step towards achieving the goal of complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Turkey welcomes the recent U.S.-D.P.R.K. agreement on denuclearization verification measures. The agreement by the DPRK to a series of verification measures constitutes a positive development towards the verification of North Korea’s denuclearization actions.

Turkey hopes that conditions can be created for the D.P.R.K. to return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the earliest possible date and for the resumption by the International Atomic Energy Agency of comprehensive safeguards.

Mr. Chairman,

Like many other countries, Turkey is concerned with the deteriorating situation in the field of disarmament and international security in recent years. We therefore would like to add our voice to those Delegations that have appealed for increased flexibility and political will that is necessary to make progress in this area, particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you.