Statement by Turkey
Thematic Debate on Disarmament Machinery
First Committee
72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly
October 25, 2017

Chair,

In view of the security challenges the international community is facing today, enhancing the effectiveness of the UN Disarmament Machinery must be our shared goal and priority.

The problems that hamper progress in the Conference on Disarmament are not created by its procedures or internal dynamics. The CD does not operate in void, and we need refrain from assessing CD’s work in abstraction from the rest of the disarmament efforts.

The 2017 session of the CD was another year that its members put their extensive work to bring CD back on its track. Unfortunately, these efforts did not bring any concrete results.

The resumption of the substantive work of the CD with the consent of all its members, will contribute to the strengthening of international efforts for nuclear disarmament. Turkey is convinced that the CD possesses the mandate, rules of procedure and membership to discharge its duties.

As we all know, the disarmament machinery has a clear division of tasks among various international fora. Naturally, different bodies have different working methods and memberships.

Turkey’s priority is moving CD forward by having it reassume its fundamental task: to negotiate legally binding international treaties.

Another important pillar of the UN Disarmament Machinery, one that has just recently reminded us of its value is the UN Disarmament Commission.

Turkey, as a member of the Bureau of the UNDC this year, has put in substantive efforts to reach a consensus outcome in both working groups. We welcome the recommendations agreed on confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons. By arriving at a consensus in the UNDC on recommendations we have broken a deadlock of almost two decades, a progress which also remind us that proceeding by consensus in Disarmament is indeed possible.
Last but not least, I wish to reiterate Turkey's determination to maintain its contributions to the work of the First Committee, which it regards as a significant pillar of the disarmament machinery.

I thank you.