I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I assure you of my delegation’s full support in our joint work.

Perhaps there never is an easy time in non-proliferation and disarmament. But recently, we are faced with ever more concerning threats to our collective security and global peace: While the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture is being challenged by the DPRK’s continued nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches and the appalling use of chemical weapons in Syria breaks a long-standing norm against the use of such weapons, the growing polarization in the area of nuclear disarmament distracts our energy from the imminent and serious challenges.

With its provocative nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, the DPRK stands before us as an alarming case. Turkey calls upon the DPRK to fulfil its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and to refrain from actions that would further escalate the tensions and undermine the prospects for nuclear disarmament.

Turkey appreciates the virtue of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA stands before us as an example for the effectiveness and success of multilateral diplomacy in advancing the NPT’s objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey is fully committed to our shared goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We recognize that there is no easy shortcut to a nuclear-weapon-free world. We strongly support the NPT, which we see as the centerpiece mechanism of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We will not support any action that could undermine the NPT. Turkey, both on a national basis and together with its NPDI (Nonproliferation and Disarmament Initiative) partners, is ready to work for rebuilding the trust.
and environment of dialogue that are necessary for progress in nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the resumption of strategic stability talks between the United States and Russia.

We reaffirm the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty). It is our firm belief that the commencement of FMCT (Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty) negotiations in Geneva would also be a significant contribution to non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. Nuclear disarmament verification would be another.

On the other hand, we regret the fact that the convening of an international conference for the establishment of a Middle East zone free from weapons of mass destruction has not materialized.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey attaches great significance to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The use of chemical weapons, be it in Syria or elsewhere, is a crime against humanity, a violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and an affront to the CWC. To prevent the use of these weapons again, the international community must ensure that there is no impunity with regard to such actions.

Like chemical weapons, Turkey does not possess any weapons covered under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). While we welcome Samoa's accession to the Convention, we are not satisfied with the outcome of the 8th Review Conference.

Turning to conventional disarmament...

The threat posed by the proliferation of illicit conventional weapons is no less important than that of WMDs. More than five hundred thousand people are killed with small arms and light weapons every year. Turkey remains committed to the effective implementation and further strengthening of the UN PoA and the ITI. We attach importance to and actively participated in the Arms Trade Treaty process.
Security in cyber space and outer space are equally important and deserve our full attention. Turkey is disappointed in the fact that the 5th Governmental Experts Group on 'information and communications technology in the context of international security' has ended its work without agreeing on recommendations. In the recent years, Turkey has remarkably strengthened its national legislation and international cooperation in this area. We look forward to contributing to the work on this topic either within a possible consecutive GGE or any other format.

Turkey is also committed to the peaceful uses of outer space. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, this week the Government of Turkey has submitted to the parliament a draft legislation that sets up a Turkish Space Agency.

Mr. Chairman,

Having summarized the challenges we are facing, I should also acknowledge the encouraging developments that took place in the disarmament machinery in this past year:

First of all, as other delegations have underlined in their statements, by succeeding in arriving at a consensus in the UNDC on recommendations (on confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons) we have broken a deadlock of almost two decades. Also, agreement in the Open-ended Working Group on recommendations on the objectives and agenda of the SSOD-IV (Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament) must not be underestimated.

These are significant developments and renew confidence in our ability to proceed with consensus to jointly tackle the security challenges ahead. Turkey has strongly supported these efforts and is determined to maintain that level of support in the days ahead.

Thank you.