Mr. Chairman,

Turkey associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and NPDI as well as the statement read by the Delegation of Netherlands on behalf of a group of states.

In today’s fragile security environment, we feel the need more than ever to be guided by the ultimate objective of the total elimination of nuclear and all types of weapons of mass destruction. Much work still needs to be done to achieve this shared goal and we must focus our efforts to bridge our differences and assume joint responsibility in this direction.

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT’s entry into force. The Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Turkey remains committed to the full implementation and further strengthening of the Treaty with all its three pillars.

We repeat our call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty. We also appeal to all States Parties to implement their Treaty obligations and commitments, in full and as undertaken at the previous Review Conferences.

Turkey supports systematic, progressive, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament and encourages all states that possess nuclear weapons to take further steps in this direction. Nuclear weapon states have a special responsibility in this regard. For over three decades, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) was an important element of security and stability in Europe and beyond. We are concerned with its demise due to continued development and deployment of weapons systems.

We would like to encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to seek further reductions to their arsenals. Extension of the New START Treaty remains a key task for the coming period.

We welcome new initiatives such as Creating Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND), which aim at establishing a dialogue for nuclear disarmament. We hope such initiatives will contribute to the success of the NPT review process.

Turkey expresses its continued support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We are determined to continue working with the international community to preserve the JCPOA.
Turkey supports a diplomatic solution to the problem of DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic missile program. We wish that the ongoing diplomatic process will culminate in full and verifiable denuclearization and lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula. In this context, we urge the DPRK to sign and ratify the CTBT as a matter of priority.

We stress the centrality of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and regret the fact that the Treaty has yet to enter into force. We once again encourage all States, in particular the remaining Annex II States, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

We also reiterate our call for the commencement of the negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Turkey commends the work conducted within the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on nuclear disarmament verification and welcomes the consensus report the GGE has produced.

Turkey reaffirms its strong support to the progress on 1995 Resolution on convening a conference on the establishment of a zone in the Middle East free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

Mr. Chairman,

The debate on nuclear weapons is not an easy one. Despite many challenges, our shared goal of a nuclear weapon free world must guide us in finding a common ground.

Thank you.