Statement by Turkey

MEETING OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
14 NOVEMBER 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

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

This year, Meeting of Experts on Amended Protocol II and Protocol V successfully addressed a number of key issues with regard to the effective implementation of the Convention.

I will briefly summarize the views of Turkey on various agenda items.

On universalization, 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 Kuwait and Zambia to CCW.

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

On the compliance mechanism, we should like to reiterate that the relevant Decision of the Fourth Review Conference (2011) has already proven its value. As we decided to include “the status of implementation of and compliance with the Convention” into the agenda of our annual meetings, High Contracting Parties have had the opportunity to share views on issues related to implementation. Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is party. Furthermore, annual compliance reports pursuant to that Decision are valuable tools for mutual understanding, transparency and confidence building. Consequently, we have been submitting our Compliance reports regularly, and would like to encourage all States Parties to do so.

Mr. President,

This year, experts had fruitful discussions on the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). We appreciate the expert presentations and other contributions by the Delegations in the previous
Meeting of Experts. The report on IED submitted by the Coordinator is the result of meticulous work, conducted in close cooperation with States Parties. We share the ideas for future work and recommendations which are enshrined in the IED’s report.

Mr. President,

Turkey sees value in debating the lethal autonomous weapons in the framework of the CCW and welcomes the idea to convene an informal meeting of experts in 2014 to discuss the questions related to emerging technologies in this area, including the technical and legal aspects. The definition and the scope of these weapons need to be clarified. International Law and International Humanitarian Law should be considered thoroughly. We should also bear in mind that they cause great concerns.

Mr. President,

Finally, we would like to emphasize the importance we attach to the contribution of the NGOs to the implementation of CCW. We are of the opinion that NGOs might bring additional expertise to our discussions. However, we have also time and again stressed the efforts of NGOs can only be productive with the consent of State Parties concerned in order to prevent terrorist organizations acting against national interests of High Contracting Parties from exploiting such activities for their own goals.

We thank you Mr. President for conducting consultations on the issue of one NGO’s participation to the CCW meetings, as contained in last year’s report (para. 17). Since we could not reach a solution on this issue, we would like to continue these consultations, not later than Meeting of High Contracting Parties to CCW in 2014.

I thank you.