Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament,

Distinguished Ambassadors and Delegates,

Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are critical enablers for global safety, security and peace.

They are of even greater value during times of instability and uncertainty.

In her part of the world, Turkey is directly confronted by a multitude of risks and threats.

We are fighting various terrorist organizations at the same time, from DEASH to the PKK/PYD and FETO, while the conflict in Syria is almost in its ninth year.

We currently host over 3.6 million displaced people, and have spent more than 37 billion US Dollars for their needs. As a responsible member of the international community, we are proud to have done so and will continue to do our best.

The Conference on Disarmament was established forty years ago, when global security was again faced with many challenges.

It is a unique platform, especially in addressing matters related to weapons of mass destruction.
Leading multilateral arrangements on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were all negotiated in this body. This is an important legacy.

These agreements may not make headlines today, but in reality, they are the cornerstones of international peace and security.

Steps to undermine them will not benefit anyone.

There is great polarization in disarmament fora today. Traditional confidence building and transparency measures are no longer functioning as planned.

Meanwhile, advancements in science and technology have increased the challenge and associated risks.

This is a problem to which we cannot turn a blind eye.

Mr. President,

Achievement of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons depends first and foremost on the successful and universal implementation of the NPT.

All of our joint commitments in that matter, including on convening an International Conference “for weapons of mass destruction free Middle East”, should be met.

Three pillars of the NPT [1. non-proliferation, 2. disarmament, 3. peaceful use of nuclear technology] are equally critical and should be addressed in a balanced manner.

States that are in full compliance with their international obligations have the right to utilize the benefits of nuclear energy.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is crucial for global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. We, once again, call for its urgent ratification by all relevant parties.
Mr. President,

It is our common responsibility to make use of this important platform.

We will need to be more flexible, in a spirit of mutual ownership and collective responsibility. We need to start by agreeing on a Program of Work.

Turkey is also ready to work on a non-discriminatory and verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material. Indeed, such a treaty should take into account the legitimate security concerns of all CD Members.

Mr. President,

As the sixth and last President of the Conference last year, we worked hard to prepare a mutually acceptable, substantive report.

However, non-substantive issues did not allow to capitalize on the achievements of last year. With that experience in mind, we urge all CD members to contribute to this platform through constructive engagement.

Our priority should be to make this platform in its current composition, functional and efficient again.

That is the spirit in which Turkey will continue to approach this body.

Thank you Mr. President.