



## **STATEMENT BY TURKEY**

### **2018 MEETING OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)**

**21 NOVEMBER 2018**

#### **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr. President,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 2018 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). We are confident that your able leadership will be instrumental in reaching a successful outcome. Please be assured of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

The Convention, which bans or restricts use of certain conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects, creates a fundamental international regime with the aim of preventing and reducing sufferings of people. *(We believe that this humanitarian perspective of the Convention constitutes its one of the strongest features.)*

Universalization of the CCW would surely pave the way for a more secure world and increase global prosperity. In this regard, we encourage all the remaining countries to join the Convention at the earliest opportunity.

*(Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is a party.)*

Annual compliance reports are valuable tools for mutual understanding, transparency and confidence building. Turkey has been regularly submitting the compliance reports and encourage all High Contracting Parties to do so. Besides, we have been seizing every opportunity to encourage adherence to the CCW.

Mr. President,

We are pleased that the efforts were fruitful and the CCW survived the dire financial situation of 2017 that caused cancellation of many scheduled events.

We have to avoid encountering with such problems in the future by having a stable budgetary system. In this regard, we would like to commend your efforts on putting forward possible options. We hope that this meeting can decide on the best possible options.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned about the use of Improvised Explosive Devices by terrorists, which has extensively increased in the recent years. Use of IEDs by such groups has indiscriminate effects and devastating impacts at all levels, particularly on civilians.

Turkey is one of the countries, which has also been targeted by such heinous terrorist acts. We sincerely condemn such cowardly perpetrated attacks in any part of the world causing civilian casualties.

We are convinced that the Amended Protocol II (AP-2) is the appropriate forum to address the challenges posed by the use of IEDs.

Mr. President,

The Group of Governmental (GGE) Experts on the Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), provided the opportunity to comprehensively discuss the matter this year. Participation of academicians and practitioners to the meeting broadened our vision and served to further level the ground.

*(Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank the former Permanent Representative of India, H.E. Gill for his dedicated efforts to improve the process of LAWS and wish him successes with his new appointment.)*

CCW is the right forum to address LAWS given its extensive technical, humanitarian, military and diplomatic expertise. We support the mandate given by the CCW to the GGE on LAWS and look forward to continuing the discussions in 2019.

Mr. President,

With regard to Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (MOTAPM), Turkey acknowledges that MOTAPM are legitimate weapons, which serve important military purposes in self-defence and in other military operations.

We recognize the work to eliminate the humanitarian impacts of MOTAPM. We note that there are diverging views over various aspects of MOTAPM. The informal meetings which were reinforced by background papers have been good opportunities to hear positions of relevant countries in detail.

Turkey also had the chance to share its ideas on the matter more broadly. We would like to thank you for this opportunity. As we pointed out, although our main approach to MOTAPMs has not changed, if it serves to improve security of civilians by possible additional measures, then we see merit in further discussion on the issue.

I thank you Mr President.