STATEMENT

by

TURKEY

at

the THEMATIC DISCUSSION on
DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

of

the First Committee
of the 69th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

17 October 2014, New York
Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for me to share our views on the disarmament machinery today.

Turkey, like many other delegations in this chamber, shares the concern vis-à-vis the continuous stalemate that lingers over the UN Disarmament Machinery.

The Conference on Disarmament, once a success story has been remaining dormant for too long now.

The same unfortunately applies to the UN Disarmament Commission.

Against this backdrop, Turkey is convinced that the approach of multilateralism and progressive interactions among states carry sufficient ways and means towards rectifying the ailing components of the machinery.

Today the international community is facing a multitude of security challenges. Enhancing the effectiveness of the UN disarmament machinery as well as the relevant institutions and mechanisms should be a shared objective. Therefore there is inevitably a necessity for a collective response. What we lack currently is political will by some states without which stalemate seems endless and progress seems far.

Nevertheless, one should keep in mind that this very mechanism has, in the past, been successful in producing tangible outcomes. It is not time to despair. It is time to rekindle collective efforts to revitalize the whole mechanism.

Mr. Chairman,

As for the CD, Turkey believes that the problems that hamper progress are not created by its procedures or its internal dynamics.

We have to acknowledge that there is a certain malaise throughout the disarmament fora and machinery. Stalemate in the CD is the reflection of the strategic bottlenecks at different yet interrelated levels. We need to see the larger picture and not to assess the work of the CD in abstraction from the rest of the disarmament efforts.

Certainly, the resumption of the substantive work of the CD with the consent of all its members, will contribute to the improvement of international efforts for nuclear disarmament. To this end, we see the need to urgently formulate a consensual Program of Work. This will pave the way towards the commencement of negotiations. It is our conviction that only then the CD will be revitalized. We should not spare any effort, within the CD, that would generate more mutual understanding and confidence, while not ignoring the developments outside the CD. As part of these efforts, we welcomed the establishment of the Informal Working Group.

Turkey is convinced that the Conference possesses the mandate, rules of procedure, and membership to discharge its duties. At this stage we need progress and we need it fast. It is our wish that we do not dilute our focus on the main substantive issue by introducing into our deliberations additional points of contention that do not command consensus. It is clearly not having a position against expansion of the membership, rather having concerns about the timing. We also take into account that the discussions in the CD are conducted in an inclusive manner. We hope the time to consider this issue comes sooner than later.
Unfortunately, another important pillar of the UN Disarmament Machinery that has not functioned as we would have desired, is the UN Disarmament Commission.

Despite the fact that it is a deliberative body, the UNDC once successfully formulated consensus principles, guidelines and recommendations on a number of subjects. Now regrettably, the UNDC has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the last fifteen years. We thus are of the opinion that the revitalisation of the work of the UNDC is crucial in its upcoming triennial cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Committee, on the other hand, remains as a significant component of the disarmament machinery. Turkey values the institution of introducing resolutions. Nevertheless, we believe the international community needs to be mindful for not creating a self-imposed maze of duplication through the resolutions we draft. To this end, Turkey believes that if needed, we should be in a position to consider some flexibility so as to be able to make the necessary consensual amendments to the contents of the resolutions as well as the timetable of introducing them.

To conclude, let me reiterate our call for solidarity and cooperation. There may be challenges ahead but despairing is not the way to overcome them. Striving to bring about change through mutual understanding and progress is.

Thank you.