

-PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-

Statement by Turkey
Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons
First Committee
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
October 24, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union under this cluster. The following are our national remarks:

The **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)** is an indispensable part of the international law on “conventional weapons with indiscriminate effects”. Turkey fully implements the Convention and its annexed Protocols to which it is a party and encourages adherence to this fundamental international regime.

We expect that the **Fifth Review Conference** of CCW in December considers the discussions we have had in the last five year’s cycle, and also prepare the **basis for the next intersessional cycle**, particularly on issues such as **Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)** and **Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**. We wish to add that we welcome the adoption of a **political declaration** on IEDs.

We support the furthering of the work on **LAWS**. **CCW is the right forum** to take up LAWS, as it seeks a balance among humanitarian actions and military utility.

As a party to the **Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention**, Turkey is committed to its obligations stemming from this Convention. Turkey has completed its commitment relating to Article 4, destroying a total of approximately 3 million anti-personnel mines and is in the process of fulfilling its Article 5 obligations.

While fully engaged in our efforts to this end, Turkey continues to render modest **financial assistance** to clearance efforts in third countries as well. We also make voluntary contributions to **the ISU** and the **sponsorship programme**.

The increasing **proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction** is a great concern. As recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1540 (2004), this constitutes a threat to international peace and security. With that understanding, Turkey welcomes the advancement of the universalization of the **Code of Conduct**, and has again co-sponsored the draft resolution on HCoC against Ballistic Missile Proliferation in the Committee this year.

The **threat to our safety, security and social and economic development posed by the proliferation of illicit conventional weapons**, particularly small arms and light weapons, is no less important than that of WMDs.

There is a well-documented **relationship** between their illicit trade on the one hand, and conflict, terrorism and organized crime on the other. The illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, uncontrolled spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons **must be eradicated**.

Turkey remains committed to the **effective implementation and further strengthening** of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

We welcome the successful conclusion of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS6) in June this year.

PoA's **Third Review Conference in 2018** provides us the opportunity to come up with improved mechanisms for assistance and cooperation, as well as for countering the threat from new weapons-related technologies, with an eye to developing them into concrete elements for a tailored work programme for the next six-year cycle.

The entry into force of the **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**, in December 2014 is an important milestone in setting common international standards for the international trade in conventional arms, preventing their illicit trade and diversion.

Since its outset, Turkey supported and actively participated in the process, thereafter **signing** the Treaty. Pending approval of the Turkish Parliament for **ratification**, we would like to reaffirm our keenness to accede to the Treaty in the near future.

We welcome the successful conclusion of the **Second Conference of States-Parties to the ATT** in August.

Together with **Security Council resolution 2117 (2013)** on SALW, ATT will complement and reinforce the POA.

Finally, we regard the inclusion of **Goal 16, Target 4** to significantly reduce illicit arms flows in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a big step in global efforts against the illicit trade in SALW.

Turkey joined the large group of states on the cross regional Declaration on the Illicit Trade in SALW delivered by France, and before I conclude, Mr. Chariman, I wish to **reiterate my country's commitment** to international cooperation in taking on the challenge caused by the illicit trade in SALW.

Thank you.