

Statement by Turkey
Thematic Debate on Disarmament Machinery
First Committee
71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
October 25, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

In view of the security challenges the international community is facing today, enhancing the effectiveness of the **UN Disarmament Machinery** should be our shared goal and priority.

To start with the **Conference on Disarmament**, the problems that hamper progress in the CD are not created by its procedures or internal dynamics. The CD does not operate in void. We need to look at the bigger picture and refrain from assessing CD's work in abstraction from the rest of the disarmament efforts.

The resumption of the substantive work of the CD with the consent of all its members, will contribute to the strengthening of international efforts for nuclear disarmament.

Turkey is convinced that the CD possesses the mandate, rules of procedure, and membership to discharge its duties.

This year CD members submitted different **programmes of work**. Although none enjoyed consensus, we take these as a genuine effort to bring CD back to work.

As known, the disarmament machinery has a clear **division of tasks** among various international fora. Naturally, different bodies have different **working methods and memberships**.

Turkey's priority is moving CD forward by having it reassume its fundamental task: to negotiate legally binding international treaties.

Another important pillar of the UN Disarmament Machinery, one that has not functioned as desired, is the **UN Disarmament Commission**.

Regrettably, the UNDC has not been able submit any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the last fifteen years; whereas, despite being a deliberative body, it once successfully formulated consensus principles, guidelines and recommendations on a number of subjects.

We look forward to seeing the UNDC resume that kind of work soon.

Mr. Chairman,

The **First Committee**, 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 of not creating a self-imposed maze of duplication through the resolutions we draft and act on. We should be mindful of the absolute value added of some of these resolutions we introduce and act on in this Committee.

Last but not least, we note that institutional crisis of **UNIDIR** has been overcome. Turkey like in previous years, has made a voluntary contribution to **UNIDIR**.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

It is time to give our best shot to **revitalizing the whole disarmament machinery**. Before I conclude, I'd like to reiterate my country's **readiness to contribute to the efforts to that end**.

Thank you.