

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Turkey

1. The Republic of Turkey hereby submits its national report in accordance with the requirements stated in action 20 of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ([NPT/CONF.2010/50 \(Vol.I\)](#)). The said action plan stipulates that “States Parties should submit regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, on the implementation of the present action plan, as well as article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”, and the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996”.
2. The present report contains a summary of the activities and work done by Turkey, as a non-nuclear weapon State, to contribute to the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. Turkey deems all three pillars of the Treaty to be equally important.
3. Turkey follows an international security policy with regard to non-proliferation measures and supports the incremental reduction and eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons, consistent with its obligations stemming from its being a North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally.
4. Turkey regards the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation of the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. As a country that is a party to all international non-proliferation instruments and regimes, Turkey remains committed to the full implementation and further strengthening of the Treaty with its three pillars.
5. Turkey’s priority is to uphold the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a major instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability and to promote its universalization. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2010 action plan identified the main goals in the three pillars.



Pillar I. Nuclear disarmament (actions 1 to 22)

6. Turkey is firmly committed to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons and is working actively towards this goal. Turkey has demonstrated its continuing commitment to the principle of comprehensive, irreversible and verifiable disarmament through statements and support for resolutions on various international platforms that include this Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle, the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

Initiatives to strengthen the disarmament process

7. Turkey is a member of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, which aims to strengthen the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Initiative promotes the ultimate goal of the total elimination of the nuclear weapons through the implementation of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty action plan in a practical manner. The Initiative is working actively on all pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this context, the Initiative has submitted working papers to the meetings of the current Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle on transparency, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, a fissile material cut-off treaty, de-alerting, North Korea, disarmament and non-proliferation education, safeguards, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty and strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process. The Initiative has submitted a comprehensive landing zone paper to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

8. Turkey has also taken part in the discussions within the framework of the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative to assist in finding ways to strengthen disarmament efforts. Turkey is ready to contribute to further discussions within the initiative.

Transparency

9. Turkey believes that there is a greater need for more detailed information related to nuclear weapons by all nuclear-weapon States. In this context, additional information on non-strategic nuclear weapons would also be an important security and confidence-building measure and would facilitate further progress on nuclear disarmament.

New START

10. Turkey welcomes the extension of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (new START Treaty) by the United States and the Russian Federation until 5 February 2026 and encourages continued dialogue among nuclear-weapon States aimed at the expansion of such arrangements to contribute to strategic stability.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

11. Turkey signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2001. Turkey attaches utmost importance to the entry into force of the Treaty at the earliest possible date. Turkey calls upon all States to uphold and maintain moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. Turkey encourages all States, in particular the remaining Annex 2 States whose ratifications are required for the entry into force of the Treaty, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

12. Turkey promotes the universalization and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on a national basis. Turkey also co-sponsored a working

paper on the Treaty ([NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.3](#)), submitted by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to the Preparatory Committees for the tenth Review Conference, held in 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively, in Vienna, Geneva and New York.

13. Turkey co-sponsored and voted in favour of General Assembly resolution [75/87](#) on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

14. Turkey contributed on a voluntary basis to a project of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which facilitated the participation of experts from developing countries in technical meetings of the Preparatory Commission in the previous years.

15. Turkey participated in the article XIV conference held during the 2020 review process, delivered national speeches and conveyed its views on the issue. Lastly, Turkey participated in the article XIV conference held in September 2021 and joined the ministerial declaration of the conference. Turkey also made a national statement during the conference.

16. Turkey has an International Monitoring System station that regularly provides data to the Experimental International Data Center, in Vienna. Turkey has a well-established communication and cooperation scheme with the Center.

Fissile material cut-off treaty

17. Turkey voted in favour of the treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (decision 75/515). Turkey welcomes the work done by the Group of Governmental Experts and the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group.

18. Turkey believes that such a treaty would constitute an essential contribution and step towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons, and we remain committed to working actively and constructively to that end. Turkey believes that the Conference on Disarmament is the most appropriate venue at which to negotiate such a treaty. During Conference on Disarmament meetings, Turkey supports starting negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Conference on Disarmament

19. Turkey, as member of the Conference on Disarmament, supports the creation of a subsidiary body in the Conference to deal with nuclear disarmament within the context of a substantive programme of work. Such a subsidiary body within the Conference is expected to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

20. Turkey participated in the Conference on Disarmament thematic debates on agenda items in a constructive manner in order to address issues including nuclear disarmament.

Verification

21. Turkey co-sponsored and voted in favour of General Assembly decision 75/516 on nuclear disarmament verification, and it supports the work of the Group of Experts. Turkey deems multilateral nuclear verification capabilities necessary for the realization and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

22. With this understanding, Turkey participates in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

National efforts to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties

23. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned is an important non-proliferation and disarmament measure. Turkey supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

24. A pending critical commitment of the 1995 Review Conference is the convening of an international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In this context, Turkey supports the convening of a conference on a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, to be attended by all States in the region.

25. Turkey voted in favour of the resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, most recently in 2020 (General Assembly resolution [75/33](#)).

26. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative presented a report to the Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in 2017, entitled “Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons”. Turkey submitted its views on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, which are contained in document [A/73/182 \(Part I\)](#), pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/24](#).

27. Turkey welcomed the convening of the conference from 18 to 22 November 2019 in New York, pursuant to General Assembly decision 73/546, and notes that the second session of the conference will be held from 29 November to 3 December 2021. Turkey hopes that the conference process will achieve tangible results, with the eventual participation of all relevant parties.

Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation (actions 23 to 46)**Nuclear security and safeguards**

28. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays the central role in nuclear security and safeguards. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the member States to ensure that IAEA has the necessary political, technical and financial support to effectively carry out its mandate under its statute as entrusted by its political bodies.

29. Turkey maintains close dialogue and cooperation with IAEA on the development of the nuclear power infrastructure of the country. Turkey is benefiting from IAEA advisory services on the basis of Turkey’s needs and requirements. In this context, Turkey requested International Physical Protection Advisory Service consultancy from IAEA, and the Advisory Service’s mission is to be conducted from 1 to 12 November 2021. Turkey also held an integrated work plan review meeting from 28 to 30 September 2021.

30. Turkey has been a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material since 1985 and has also ratified its 2005 Amendment. The instrument of ratification was deposited with IAEA on 8 July 2015. Turkey is also a party to the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy. The 2004 Protocol to the Paris Convention was adopted by the Parliament on 6 October 2021, and the ratification process is ongoing.

31. Turkey is among the initial signatories of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Turkey has been a party to the Convention since its instrument of ratification was deposited, on 24 September 2012.

32. IAEA safeguards are a vital component of the global non-proliferation regime. The comprehensive safeguards agreement and its additional protocol are the essential

tools establishing a solid verification standard. Turkey calls upon those States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement their comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols without further delay.

33. Turkey has concluded both the comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol with IAEA. The broader conclusion obtained from the Agency in 2012, confirming that all nuclear material in the country has remained in peaceful activities, is a testimony to the high standards that Turkey's system of accounting and control of nuclear material has reached. The safeguards agreement with IAEA has been in force since 1981, and the additional protocol has been in force since 2001. IAEA safeguards and the International State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material Advisory Service preparatory mission is planned to be held in 2022. Turkey has also been among the pilot States of the COMPASS project, which aims at strengthening safeguards implementation and the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material in States.

34. Turkey ensures that nuclear-related exports do not assist in the development of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Turkey follows up-to-date export control practices envisaged by the leading export control mechanisms. In this context, Turkey is a member of both the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, and it strictly applies the rules of the Nuclear Suppliers Group Part 1 and Part 2 control lists and the Zangger Committee trigger list, as well as Annexes 1 and 2 to the IAEA additional protocol.

Other international initiatives

35. Turkey is a member of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which is an important complementary mechanism in addition to those enshrined in various international instruments. The Initiative's distinctive character adds value to our comprehensive system of international counterproliferation mechanisms.

36. Turkey is a member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which was created in 2006 with the aim of strengthening the capacity to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear terrorism.

37. Turkey also participated in the Nuclear Security Summits held in 2010 (Washington), 2012 (Seoul), 2014 (The Hague) and, lastly, 2016 (Washington), and supported the actions and decisions related to nuclear security.

38. Turkey actively participated in the International Conferences on Nuclear Security in the years 2013, 2016 and 2020.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

39. Turkey regards multilateral counterproliferation initiatives as important voluntary cooperative mechanisms complementing the existing international instruments and export control regimes.

40. On 27 December 2020, the Turkish Grand National Assembly adopted the Law on Countering the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (Law No. 7262), which entered into force on 31 December 2020. The law establishes procedures and principles regarding the implementation of sanctions established by Security Council resolutions in the field of prevention of the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

41. Turkey fully supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and reports to the relevant United Nations Committee. Turkey continues to actively promote the objectives of resolution 1540 (2004) and supports the work of

the Committee. The updated 1540 Committee matrix of Turkey for 2020 has been approved and issued on the Committee's website.

42. Turkey works meticulously for the implementation of nuclear export control lists in domestic legislation and regulations. Regular meetings with the relevant ministries and institutions provide a cooperation scheme among the stakeholders in the area of export controls.

Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47 to 64)

43. Secure, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy is at the core of Turkey's development strategies. Turkey follows all the relevant agreements and rules on the safety and security of nuclear facilities and materials and their transfers.

44. Bearing in mind article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which ensures the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty, Turkey supports the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology.

45. Peaceful uses include nuclear science and technology, medical applications, agriculture, mining and many other areas. Turkey cooperates with IAEA in these areas through technical assistance and consultancy.

46. In promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Turkey gives priority to close cooperation with IAEA through joint projects, activities and meetings. Rapidly growing energy needs and urgency to deal with energy supply security are forcing Turkey to enrich and diversify its national energy mix with nuclear energy.

47. Turkey has embarked upon a nuclear power programme to meet growing energy needs in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. Turkey's objective is to be able to derive 10 per cent of its electricity production through nuclear power through the commissioning of all units of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant.

48. The first concrete was poured for unit 1 of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant on 3 April 2018. A construction licence for the second and third units were issued in August 2019 and November 2020, respectively. Construction activities for the three units are continuing. For the fourth unit, a construction licence was granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority on 28 October 2021. A reactor vessel for unit 1 has been installed.

49. Following the establishment of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, in July 2018, the Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Authority continued their cooperation with IAEA to address all nuclear safety and security matters for the safe and secure operation of the plant in accordance with the safeguards rules of the Agency. The preparations for the operation of the power plant are still under way. A preparatory meeting for a pre-Operational Safety Review Team and Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission is planned to be held in 2022. In 2020, the former Turkish Atomic Energy Authority was reorganized as a research institute for nuclear energy with responsibility for national radioactive waste management and was renamed as the Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency.

50. Since it is the prerogative of each State to establish its own national energy policy, including fuel cycle policies, in accordance with the national requirements and taking into account relevant international obligations, Turkey is committed to implementing the highest standards of safety and security, as well as effective safeguards with full transparency, regarding its nuclear energy programme at all

stages. Turkey is working in close cooperation with IAEA and its member States during the launch of its nuclear energy programme.

51. Turkey diligently follows the IAEA rules concerning the safety and security of spent fuel management and radioactive waste management and all other relevant regulations. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was approved by the Turkish Parliament on 6 October 2021. Procedures for its entry into force are ongoing. Additionally, the National Radioactive Waste Plan was adopted by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in December 2020.

52. Turkey also takes all necessary precautions by strengthening its national nuclear security regime to prohibit armed attacks on or to prevent threats against nuclear facilities during their operation or construction.

53. Turkey makes regular contributions to IAEA and is in the “excellent contributors” category of the Technical Cooperation Fund. Turkey makes its contributions to the regular budget of IAEA in a timely manner and provides voluntary funds or in-kind contributions to the activities and projects of the Agency.
