

**His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey**  
(spoke in Turkish, English text provided by the delegation)

It gives me great pleasure to be here today. Let me at the outset extend my sincere thanks to President Obama for his initiative to convene this Security Council summit focusing on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as nuclear safety and security. The summit gives us an opportunity to discuss these issues, which require global attention and attention at the highest level.

Those factors make this meeting very pertinent and timely. We share a common responsibility towards humanity on these matters.

Forty years ago, when the threat of nuclear destruction was hovering over the fortunes of mankind with a greater magnitude than today, leaders of the world united to produce the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which is indisputably one of the most important treaties of the twentieth century. The Treaty is very important because it reflects mankind's universal and fundamental desire for peace and security. Today it remains as relevant and indispensable as it was 40 years ago, with its three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament/general and complete disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Over the years, much has been achieved along these lines. However, there is still a need to bolster the integrity and credibility of the NPT regime. Therefore, I believe that today's meeting is an important opportunity to demonstrate our readiness to achieve these goals and demonstrate strong global ownership to this end. I believe that will re-energize the international community and lead to new initiatives as we head towards the NPT Review Conference next year.

There is a need for an incremental and sustained approach with respect to nuclear disarmament. In this regard, the unequivocal undertaking by all five nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals is therefore one of the big achievements of the NPT. This responsibility must now be upheld, building on article VI of the Treaty and the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament agreed upon in year 2000. It is in this context that we welcome and

encourage the efforts to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with a new legally binding instrument.

Irreversible progress on nuclear disarmament will also reinforce the other two pillars of the NPT. In particular, it is important that nuclear non-proliferation should go hand in hand with nuclear disarmament efforts. That should include the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the initiation of negotiations for a fissile material cut-off treaty in the Conference on Disarmament and promoting role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the sole multilateral body in advancing the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

On the other hand, Turkey believes that States in full compliance with their safeguards obligations should enjoy unfettered access to civilian nuclear energy as enshrined in the NPT. We believe that in this day and age, having weapons of mass destruction is not going to bring additional safety or security to any country. On the contrary, those weapons endanger peace and stability. It is for that reason that Turkey believes that it is very important to have nuclear-free zones, especially and starting with the Middle East, and we continue to support such activities in all areas, particularly in the Middle East.

It is also very important that the safety of nuclear resources remain a priority issue for the international community. There is no doubt that confidence in nuclear sources will continue to be very important. On the other hand, nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking in nuclear material pose a grave security threat that needs to be addressed with a global commitment.

Within this framework, we should work on a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing approach, making use of available United Nations and IAEA conventions, as well as other applicable multilateral instruments. Resolution 1540 (2004) and its effective implementation is thus of great importance.

Against this background, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we support the resolution that we voted upon this morning (resolution 1887 (2009)).