



STATEMENT BY PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS  
SEVENTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES GENEVA  
4-6 SEPTEMBER 2017

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset please allow me congratulate you, Ambassador Biontino, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties. Let me also thank distinguished coordinators for their detailed report.

Mr. President,

Turkey favours global, overall disarmament and supports all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

We also share the humanitarian concerns behind the efforts for limiting the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions. In this regard, Turkey is deeply concerned about the use of cluster munitions against civilian populations and condemns these actions.

While not a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Turkey was present at the Signing Conference and has been represented in all of the Meetings of States Parties as observer, which is a clear display of Turkey's interest in the matter.

Turkey is a party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and though it was not possible to realize, we were strongly supportive of a draft protocol on cluster munitions, which would include the major users and producers of the weapon, hence strengthening the overall UN disarmament machinery.

Although Turkey does not use, transfer, produce or import cluster munitions, we are not yet ready, at this stage, to assume additional responsibilities regarding cluster munitions.

Currently our primary aim is to fulfil Turkey's obligations arising from the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

In that regard, I would like to inform you that demining of mined areas along Turkey's eastern borders is still in progress. On the other hand, the total area that we have to address in accordance with our obligations arising from the said Convention is larger than 172 million square meters, which makes it difficult to assume additional coinciding obligations for quite sometimes.

I thank you Mr. President.