

**STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MR. YUSUF ZİYA İRBEÇ,  
GRAND TURKISH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION  
ON 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

**AT THE ARMS TRADE TREATY 4<sup>TH</sup> PREPARATORY COMMITTEE**

Turkey supports developing a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The absence of such standards contributes to conflict, instability, terrorism and crime.

Turkey attaches importance to the development of these standards through a step-by-step approach in an open and transparent manner and on the basis of consensus, as stipulated in resolution 63/240. Turkey co-sponsored resolution 63/240 at the General Assembly 2008 with this understanding.

As emphasized in resolution 63/240, the inherent right of every state's individual or collective defense should not be compromised in any way. To this end, the Arms Trade treaty should not prejudice the legal trade of arms and weapons to meet the legitimate defense needs of states. On the other hand, it should ensure that states adhere to universal norms, values and principals, and fully respect and fulfill their obligations emanating from various multilateral legally and politically binding instruments.

The Arms Trade Treaty should not diminish or compromise the importance of existing documents. On the contrary, the aim should be to provide a legally binding that would complement and strengthen ongoing efforts and existing instruments. The treaty should set out universal standards that would cover all aspects of import, export and transfer of conventional arms that are partially covered elsewhere, in international, regional or national framework. The treaty should also provide guidance for states to respond to the relevant risks and threats as they evolve.

Prevention of diversion of conventional arms from the legal to the illicit market, where they can be used for terrorist acts, organized crime and other criminal activities should be one of the basis objectives of an Arms Trade Treaty.

In terms of scope, the treaty should reflect a holistic understanding. Leaving out one or some of the categories of conventional arms will create loopholes that could jeopardize the overall objectives of the treaty. The main focus should be on those categories that are most suitable for use by non-state actors for terrorist and criminal purposes.

In addition to the codification of universal norms and standards, concrete and effective mechanisms for implementation should be the underlying aim of the treaty.

These are the priorities and expectations of Turkey with regard to the Arms Trade Treaty. We look forward to having a substantive discussion on these issues at the Working Group.