

**10th INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CONTROL AND RELATED BORDER
SECURITY (EXBS) CONFERENCE - 25-27 JUNE 2009/ISTANBUL**

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Mr. Assistant Secretary,
Dear Co-Chairs,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our guests, who have travelled from all around the world for this important Conference in Istanbul.

I would like to, in particular, extend my thanks to our American co-hosts and to the organisers who have helped us to make this important conference a reality and provided us with this opportunity.

Why is this Conference important?

It is important because we will discuss how to strengthen our common fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, how to strengthen our tools in that fight and how to cooperate better.

It is also important, that, we, together, will give a strong message to the international community, that we are determined, and that we are stronger when we are together.

It is important, because, during the upcoming three days, we will have the opportunity to examine our existing mechanisms, and to draw lessons from our experiences, and thus strengthen our common vision for the future.

Let me briefly start by **sharing with you our history with EXBS**. What it means to us, and why we are co-hosting this Conference today in Istanbul.

We are gathered here, at this Conference on Export Control and Related Border Security and Non-Proliferation, thanks to the Agreement between Turkey and the USA ***Regarding Cooperation to Facilitate the Provision of Assistance for Nonproliferation Purposes, which we like to refer, briefly as the EXBS Agreement***, which has entered into force last year.

Both the Turkish representatives, as well our American colleagues would recall how much it took us to conclude this agreement. It required more than three years for our experts to finalize the process, necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement. In the meantime, we were lucky to welcome yet another agreement, an agreement which goes beyond the EXBS agreement, an agreement which paves the way for a larger cooperation between Turkey and the US in the field of energy. I refer to the 1-2-3 Agreement, the Agreement of Cooperation on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

We believe that the EXBS Agreement will open up new avenues in our nuclear energy cooperation, and will deepen our already existing cooperation on non-proliferation.

Last year, we organized a bilateral seminar with the US, on the implementation of EXBS, and this year we are happy to have the opportunity to co-host this important, international event.

Taking this opportunity, let me dwell upon Turkey's policy and priorities in maintaining an effective fight against proliferation.

Turkey is in favour of global, overall disarmament. In view of this ideal, we support all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

In a volatile region, posing the risks of proliferation, Turkey takes a firm stance against the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. The basic precept in our armament and export policies is **zero tolerance for proliferation.**

We believe that one of the most effective measures in the fight against proliferation policies, is to **strengthen the legal framework** and redefine and expand the basic parameters of the international instruments and export control regimes. Ensuring an effective implementation of these instruments and control regimes is another task to be reckoned with.

We are a party to all the instruments, arrangements and regimes in the field of WMD proliferation and give our support to Initiatives such as the Proliferation Security Initiative.

Turkey has an effective export control system. This is not only because Turkey is a party to all international export control regimes, but also because of its national security concerns. **We exercise vigilant export controls.** What we care utmost, as a transit country is, the responsibility of the countries of origin in the transshipment of sensitive items. Equally, we always emphasize the significance of timely and accurate intelligence exchange.

You will listen to the details of our system, as well as to a couple of on-the-ground examples in due course today. A comprehensive industry-outreach programme is pursued, where we continue to inform the exporters of the relevant commitment and obligations of Turkey stemming from international agreements and regimes, as well as the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We also have a draft law at the Parliament, which, once enacted, is expected to render a more efficient system through strengthening the export control of dual-use items.

Sitting at the Chair of the UN Security Council this month, and presiding over the North Korean Sanctions Committee entrusted us with further responsibilities in our determination to fight proliferation. We are glad that the international community did not hesitate to give a strong signal to the Democratic Republic of Korea, which caused a deep sense of concern by violating its international obligations.

We are joining the international community on urging North Korea to refrain from provocative acts. We believe that, the international community should act in unity, in a determined fashion in the context of the North Korean nuclear issue. On 12 June 2009, the UN Security Council has unanimously adopted the Resolution 1874, as a strong signal of the concern of the international community. Now, we must look into its strict enforcement. **Turkey has always supported the idea of the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, and the continuation of the Six-Party Talks.**

Another issue of common concern is terrorism. **Terrorism is a global phenomenon and is a crime against humanity. It continues to constitute a common threat.** We stand by our firm conviction that terrorism cannot be identified with any particular religion, race, nationality or region and that there can be no justification for any act of terrorism. International solidarity and cooperation in combating terrorism is imperative and all countries must assume their responsibilities in this regard.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to one of the first international statements of the US President Obama. His words on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation encouraged all of us for a better world, for a world with less nuclear weapons and for a world we can feel ourselves safer. We are grateful for his encouragement and indeed look forward for deeds to turn into concrete action.

Finally, please allow me to **reiterate my country's commitment to the international community's struggle against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** and to highlight our common goal, which is to effectively fight against this phenomenon. I am confident, that for our commitment to be fulfilled, as well as for our goal to be accomplished, **this Conference will play a significant role.** And therefore, I am grateful, to the organizers, as well as to all the participants.

I wish that all of us enjoy a useful discussion and that we have a very successful conference. Thank you.