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**Statement made as a right of reply by the delegation of Turkey to the delegation of  
Armenia**

**13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice  
Doha - Qatar**

Mr. President,

I am actually sad to take the floor in a content that I believe is not directly related to the core and essence of this Congress, particularly the reference made to the events of 1915 by the head of delegation of Armenia.

Mr. President,

The First World War years witnessed many tragedies for almost all nations. All people, Turks, Armenians and many others suffered immensely. It was and continues to be a shared suffering. There is no doubt that this period needs to be understood in its entirety.

Having said these, I would also like to recall that “genocide” is a very serious and distinct category of crime that was clearly defined by international law. The 1948 Convention tells us what genocide is and how it can be ascertained. It is a precisely defined concept and its proof requires high standards of evidence. It can not and should not be used randomly or arbitrarily. Furthermore, there is neither legal or scholarly consensus on the nature of the 1915 events.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline that Turkey closely follows and values all efforts for the prevention of genocide, which is an obligation of the international community. But let me reiterate that on the specific issues of 1915 events, there is no legal and scholarly consensus on its nature. What we need to do is to forge a shared memory, instead of sharpening one-sided approach and claims. In this context, our proposal back in 2005 to establish a Joint History Commission remains on the table.

We believe that a peaceful common future between Turks and Armenians can only be built on a solid basis through dialogue.

Thank you.