

**THE 14TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

(Kyoto, 7-12 March 2021)

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Turkey records its disappointment that Armenia is exploiting and abusing this international forum as a tool for its disinformation and black propaganda campaign.

As already mentioned by our delegation several times during the Kyoto Crime Congress, statements made by the Armenian delegation are full of misleading and ungrounded allegations. Armenia resorts to the practice of distorting both historical and recent events and thus wants to make forget its own aggression. Turkey totally and strongly rejects these Armenian fabrications.

Armenian disinformation campaign aims to divert attention away from its illegal occupation of Azerbaijan and violations of International Law.

Armenia's record on the issue of aggression, invasion and use of Foreign Terrorist Fighters which it recruited from all around the world by public campaigns are well known.

Armenia has targeted the civilian population and strategically important infrastructure and the cultural property in Azerbaijan away from the combat zone with ballistic missiles and internationally banned munitions in violation of fundamental norms and principles of International Law, including International Humanitarian Law. We condemn the Armenian attacks with the strongest possible terms.

We regret to witness that Armenia, which undermined the stability of our region with its occupation of Azerbaijan for around 30 years, did not take any lessons from the recent developments, and is continuing in the same path.

Turkey wants to see a negotiated settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on Azerbaijan's territorial integrity in accordance with international law, UN Security Council Resolutions and OSCE decisions to ensure enduring peace and stability in the region.

Turkey has adopted a consistent attitude regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the beginning. Turkey stands on the side of International Law. Turkey's vision regarding South Caucasia is based on regional ownership in order to create a region of peace, stability and welfare.

We call on Armenia to abandon its manipulative and provocative attitude and to adopt a responsible behavior in order not to undermine the future stability of our region. We invite Armenia to show the necessary maturity to support peaceful coexistence, instead of creating hostilities.

Armenia is invited to adopt a positive attitude and to make best use of the window of opportunity opened following the two statements issued on 10 November 2020 and 11 January 2021 by the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation. Turkey is always ready to give positive response as long as Armenia

chooses to make responsible and sincere steps in order to establish permanent peace and stability in the region. Turkey wants to see Armenia as a stakeholder of peace rather than the party of provocation. Turkey will continue its support to Azerbaijan countering Armenia's unfounded claims.