

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**(10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC)**

Mr. President, Ms. Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, I thank you Mr. Chairman and the Secretariat for your efforts in organizing and conducting this important event.

Mr. President,

Transnational organized crime is one of the major challenges in the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Turkey fully supports international cooperation in the fight against transnational crime and we take all necessary measures for effective implementation of UNTOC and its Protocols.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that there are growing links between transnational organized crime and terrorism. This relation was clearly acknowledged in the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/25 regarding the UNTOC. Turkey witnesses these linkages on a regular basis.

We are fighting against several terrorist organizations, such as DEASH, PKK/PYD/YPG and Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ). Every day Turkish authorities find evidence that these organizations finance their activities mostly through organized crime.

The results of more than five thousand operations conducted against PKK cells in Turkey in 2019 provided us with a case in point. The security forces intercepted 32 tons of cannabis resin and more than 33 million cannabis roots. PKK/PYD/YPG does not only take commissions from the illegal trade of drugs but is also actively involved in the transfer of drugs to Europe and marketing thereof in Europe. Along with these drugs, 12 long range rifles, 20 improvised explosive devices and various other weapons were also captured.

Also, illicitly or openly obtained firearms are used by terrorist groups to carry out their heinous attacks. Therefore, Turkey takes all necessary measures to prevent smuggling of arms

and ammunition. As an example of a more recent step, a new regulation was adopted in 2019, which prohibits producing blank guns that can be converted to lethal weapons. Since 2019, none of the blank guns exported from Turkey have the possibility of conversion to lethal weapons.

Moreover, as the failed coup attempt perpetrated by the Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) in 2016 to overthrow the democratically elected government and the constitutional order in Turkey demonstrated us, these groups do not refrain from employing all corrupt means to infiltrate clandestinely and in an organized manner within the State.

Mr. President,

The number of people fleeing from violence or instability has reached an unprecedented level. Today, Turkey is the largest refugee hosting country in the world. We are home to around 4 million refugees, including more than 3,6 million Syrians.

For accommodating the needs of Syrians we have been hosting for more than nine years without considering ethnic, religious or sectarian differences, Turkey has spent more than 40 billion US Dollars. We make all the effort to ensure their access to basic services including education, health and psychological services. Yet, the international assistance we received is negligible.

On the other hand, we continue to combat irregular migration as well as transnational crimes including migrant smuggling and human trafficking that is often brought along with such migratory flows. However, our unilateral efforts are not sufficient to cope with this global problem.

Today it has become clear than ever that closing the borders and building fences or pushing-back the migrants and refugees do not control migratory flows or smuggling networks, but results with humanitarian tragedies. Instead, we should focus on addressing the root causes triggering migration in the source countries. This way, we could help to the way for safe and voluntary return of migrants and refugees.

Moreover, we should work on protecting the rights and dignity of migrants and should give priority to eliminate racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and discrimination.

Mr. President,

Turkey attaches great importance to the fight against human trafficking as a party to all the key international conventions including Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. We are also in close cooperation with GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) to strengthen our efforts in combatting human trafficking. Turkish authorities also closely cooperate with civil society to help and protect the victims. We stand ready to share our experience with other parties.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I want to underline that, we attach importance to the full implementation of UNTOC and its Protocols by all States Parties. In this regard, we are glad to witness the launch of the review process of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

Turkey will continue its support to the process of this review mechanism with a view to enhance it in an effective and practical way to strengthen international cooperation.

Thank you.