

**STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION  
DURING THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS  
AND OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION  
(29 May 2009)**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In view of the last statement, I feel compelled to remind you some key issues, which had already been explained on previous occasions.

The entity that Geneva Call (GC) claims to have engaged in Turkey is not a “non-state actor” but a ruthless terrorist organization which continues to target innocent people. A so-called deed of commitment was signed in June 2006 between the GC and PKK/KADEK/KONGRA-GEL, without prior information and consent of Turkey.

This organization which is on the lists of international terrorist organisations of the European Union, other organisations and various States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention portrayed the signature of the document as “a new step in gaining legitimacy in the eyes of the international community”.

The Dead Sea and Geneva Progress Reports of 2007 and 2008 provide us with valuable guidelines with regard to this matter. Both Progress Reports state that “*when engagement by non-governmental organizations of armed non-State actors is considered, vigilance is required to prevent those organizations which carry out terrorist acts, or promote them, from exploiting the Ottawa Process for their own goals.*”

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Turkey has always welcomed efforts of non-governmental organizations in various fora, including the Ottawa process. We have been continually stating that we appreciate the supplementary role that they play in the Ottawa process. Nevertheless, non-governmental organizations should feel the obligation to conduct their work in a responsible and acceptable manner. They must demonstrate utmost care so that they do not become instrumentalised.

To our dismay the GC continues to be exploited by a terrorist organization and tarnishes its own credibility. Furthermore, this terrorist organization continues to shed even more blood by using APLMs and other deadly explosives.

In view of the above, we believe that this so-called deed of commitment must be declared as a "dead letter" and contacts with this ruthless terrorist organization must be terminated.

I deemed it necessary to remind you this, while we are preparing for the Second Review Conference.

I thank you.