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Ankara, 2 March 2009

Dear Mr. Goose,

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2009, addressed to H.E. Ali Babacan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

I take this opportunity to underline that Turkey favors global, overall disarmament and supports all efforts in the field of sustaining international security through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Needless to say that Turkey attaches importance to the restriction of the use of cluster munitions. We share the humanitarian concerns behind the efforts for limiting the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions.

However, although Turkey is not making use of cluster munitions, I should like to inform you that at this stage, our primary aim is to fulfil our obligations arising from the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. Therefore, for the time being, we are not considering to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I would also like to point out that Turkey has not used or transferred cluster munitions, and does not produce or import them.

Sincerely,

Tomur Bayer
Ambassador
Director-General
International Security Affairs

Stephen D. Goose
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