Statement by Turkey on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Third Committee, October 31, 2013)

Mr. Chair,

As the Committee is discussing “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”, my delegation wishes to stress its deep concern with regard to the unacceptable and most regrettable situation right across our border.

Various reports of the UN affiliated and non-affiliated organizations, well portrayed the deplorable human rights violations in Syria. The continued use of indiscriminate firepower by the Syrian authorities, widespread attacks directed against civilians, obstruction and arbitrary denial of humanitarian assistance, arbitrary detentions and deaths in custody, are all the very sad realities in Syria. Despite numerous calls, current reports still indicate to thousands of civilians under siege. Unfortunately, what took only two lines in this statement, costs a whole life of trauma, if not an end to life, for many innocent civilians going through this grim experience.

The brutality of the authorities against its citizens grew exponentially in every stage of the crisis in Syria. Sadly, it amounted to use of weapons of mass destruction, as confirmed by the Sellström report last month.

UN has condemned the very large scale violations in its numerous documents. The latest is just being tabled today to the Third Committee, which we shall take action on very soon. We believe this recurring initiative of the Third Committee is very important and necessary in keeping our focus on the unacceptable humanitarian situation created by the regime and the affiliated militia. Providing our strong support to the resolution is the least we can do for the people of Syria.

The international community is well aware of the nations who truly stand by the people of Syria. Turkey will continue to stand by the Syrian nation on their strife to reach their legitimate aspirations for a democratic and pluralistic society, where there is respect for and observance of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.