

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY,**

**In response to Federal Councillor, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland H.E. Didier Burkhalter and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia H.E. Ivan Mrkic**

**958<sup>th</sup> (Special) meeting of the Permanent Council  
2 July 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank incoming Chairmen in Office for 2014 and 2015, Ministers Burkhalter and Mrkic for their presentation about their priorities of their future Chairmanships of the OSCE.

Turkey has supported at the outset the decision on the consecutive Chairmanships for 2014 and 2015. As it would be recalled, our Minister was personally involved in Vilnius during the latest stages of the consensus building process. Our support stemmed not only from the excellent and developing relations that we enjoy with both countries but also by our belief that the combination of Switzerland and Serbia's assets could be beneficial for the organization at its crucial juncture.

The joint bid shows us that despite difference of approaches on some sensitive issues, a joint determination to work together on the basis of common values can produce tangible results. This can be a source of inspiration for all of us in our endeavour to create a new culture of engagement and increase mutual confidence in the Helsinki + 40 process.

The priorities of the joint work plan are as mentioned by Minister Mrkic based on the willingness to continue the efforts of the previous and current chairmanships, to which we are grateful. Many of the elements of the work plan have the same purpose that is to build trust among participating states. We hope that we will be able to make additional steps in that direction already this year, under the able stewardship of Ukraine at the first stage of the Helsinki + 40 process. Increasing the effectiveness of the organization will also have a positive effect on the visibility of the OSCE in our capitals.

We agree to many of the areas highlighted in the work plan.

We appreciate the continued attention that will be devoted to the fight against transnational threats during the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships. Ministerial Council decision 4/12 on the OSCE's efforts to address transnational threats provides a solid basis for future action. Future Chairmanships can count on the support of my country to advance our work in the field of fight against TNTs. Cyber security is an area where we expect concrete results in the upcoming period. We hope that further progress will be achieved in this area during Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships.

The OSCE serves as a forum for dialogue not least in terms of increasing military transparency, predictability and transparency among participating States. We hope that we

will continue our work towards enhanced engagement with a positive effect on Treaty-based conventional arms control instrument revitalization efforts.

We appreciate the early initiation of the Swiss side for the proposal of the theme of twenty second economic and environmental forum. We found it relevant to the overall and comprehensive security dialogue of the OSCE. The process of the review of the implementation of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, which has already started should continue in connection with the Economic and Environmental Forum. This is the main document and constitutes a solid base for further cooperation on second dimension.

Over the decades our Organization has made many significant contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as reflected in the OSCE's substantial body of human dimension commitments. Focus on the human dimension should continue as challenges in the OSCE area are having a multi-faceted nature. The economic crisis faced by many participants states is having a most disturbing effect on social cohesion. We feel that the OSCE should also be able to make its contribution to tackling those new challenges.

We also welcome the prioritization by Switzerland and Serbia of strengthening links with civil society and promoting its active involvement. Civil society's effective participation is an invaluable component of the OSCE's human dimension activities and one of the foremost strengths of our Organization. Our support also goes to the willingness to increase the role of youth in our dialogue, which is also an area put forward this year by Ukraine.

Following up the process of reviewing human dimension events is another priority which we support, as a successful overhaul of these events will greatly contribute to the general effectiveness of the OSCE's human dimension deliverables.

We also commend and support the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships' intention to promote the fight against human trafficking within a cross-dimensional framework. This will serve to further the Ukrainian Chairmanship's recent initiatives in the area of combating the scourge of modern-day slavery. Among cross-dimensional topics, issues related to women, peace and security deserve our constant attention. Our organization, with its comprehensive approach to security, is uniquely placed to bring an added-value in this area. We hope that the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships will spare no efforts with a view to ensuring full implementation of our existing commitments, including those stemming from UNSCR 1325.

A final word on protracted conflicts. We appreciate the focus on the resolution of protracted conflicts in the OSCE area. As you are aware, there are many calls for increasing the support to agreed formats in order to foster political will conducive to a negotiated outcome. We believe there is room for increased synergies inside the organization to this end. Present status quo prevent many of the people on the ground to enjoy the same freedoms that others can benefit from. It is hampering regional cooperation. They are also obstacles in front of reconciliation efforts between people that are still negatively affected by war. We were satisfied to hear the many calls that were made during the recent Annual Security Review Conference on the unacceptability of those status-quo. Therefore, we wish the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships to continue on the path of the Ukrainian Chairmanship and strengthen the ability of the organization to stimulate some positive outcome in the OSCE-led mediation efforts in the protracted conflicts.

Thank you.