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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

*In response to the Report of Ambassador Natalia Zarudna
Head of Centre in Astana*

(1004th Permanent Council, 12 June 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I join the previous speakers in welcoming Ambassador Zarudna back to the Permanent Council. I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for her comprehensive report which outlines a successful period in Kazakhstan's endeavor to achieve economic development, as well as political and social modernization.

We welcome Kazakhstan's progress in all three dimensions and in cross dimensional issues. In this context, we laud the special role played by the Centre in Astana in assisting the host country in a wide array of fields such as capacity building to addressing transnational risks to its national security, advancement of the ongoing reform process in all dimensions, criminal and administrative justice and penal reforms, combating corruption and domestic violence, promotion of green growth and access to information, enhancing national human rights institutes and establishing the National Preventive Mechanism against torture. We support the Centre's efforts in all these areas which corresponds to the needs of the host country.

On this note, I also wish to underline how Kazakhstan's well-proven will to maintain a strong engagement with the OSCE sets an example. We wish to see fruitful cooperation serving the interests of more than just Kazakhstan and the OSCE continue and grow even further. It goes without saying, on the other hand, that such cooperation is guided by the host country's requests and priorities.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkey and Kazakhstan have relations solidly anchored in a shared history and culture. These strong ties that serve the mutual interests of our countries are continuously re-endorsed through regular reciprocal visits at the highest political levels. Among these, I wish to highlight President Nazarbayev's visit to Ankara in October 2012, as it set the scene for the establishment of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council between Turkey and Kazakhstan. The Joint Strategic Planning Group, formed under this Council, is working on plans to enhance political dialogue, economic and commercial relations, mutual investments, military-technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, and inter-parliamentary relations, among others.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ambassador Zarudna and her staff for their dedicated work and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Thank you.

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