

PC.DEL/167/14
26 February 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Turkmenistan

**STATEMENT BY MR. RASHID MEREDOV,
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKMENISTAN, AT THE
985th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 February 2014

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to express my deep gratitude to the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Didier Burkhalter, for the invitation to speak at this meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

I am also grateful to you, Mr. Chairperson, and to all of the ambassadors and colleagues, for the opportunity to make a statement and inform you of Turkmenistan's position on topical issues related to our joint activities within the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkmenistan appreciates the level of co-operation that has been achieved in the OSCE. Here, I want to emphasize our commitment to broad and constructive partnership with all OSCE participating States in the interests of peace, security, stability and sustainable development.

We all know that over the years, our Organization has travelled a long and difficult path. I think that the experience of collective efforts aimed at establishing a climate of confidence on a transcontinental scale, addressing the critical socio-economic and environmental challenges in the OSCE area and ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens, will be a good basis for developing a new platform for the actions of all participating States in the long term.

In this context, the statement by the Turkmen delegation at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in December last year in Kyiv set out the fundamental positions of Turkmenistan on how further improvements could be made to the Organization.

Today, regarding the development of these initiatives, I should like to point out the specific proposals aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional framework for collaboration and consolidating our efforts to promote the goals and objectives of the OSCE.

In this regard, it appears that the Helsinki+40 process, the main task of which is reforming the OSCE in order to enhance its role in the international community and responsibility in the face of modern security challenges, has become a good platform for finding appropriate solutions in the twenty-first century. Turkmenistan has already stated that one of the important components in terms of the effectiveness of this process should be the active position of all participating States of the Organization, based on the ideals and basic principles of its operation.

Our joint efforts to strengthen international security should remain an absolute priority in the work of the OSCE.

Considering this issue, it should be noted that the conceptual approaches of Turkmenistan to ensuring security and stability around the world were clearly stated in the official statements of the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, at United Nations General Assembly sessions and at high-level events held by the OSCE and other international organizations.

In this context, I should like to emphasize that Turkmenistan considers security from the perspective of its integrity and indivisibility, it being understood that in the geopolitical sense indivisibility means a direct relationship between national, regional and global security.

At the same time, from a substantive point of view, the indivisibility and interdependence of security elements such as politico-military, economic, energy, environmental, and human security provide us with an opportunity to comprehensively address and resolve issues of its assurance on a practical level.

It is therefore within the Helsinki+40 process, first of all, that I think that it is appropriate to consider the development of a common OSCE security strategy.

Today, we can speak of such a strategy, taking into account the set of measures and collective action undertaken by our countries in the implementation of the Vienna Document and other OSCE decisions aimed at maintaining and strengthening stability and security. However, in our view, a systematic approach to solving this problem requires the development of a new international legal mechanism, which could be made up of the aforementioned strategy and specialized OSCE politico-diplomatic institutions, designed to monitor the fulfilment of commitments by the participating States and to co-ordinate their joint security activities.

At the same time, stepping up the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation is important. Increasing its efficiency is largely linked to improving the substantive activities of the Forum, as well as the search for new approaches to the organization of its work.

In this regard, on the basis of the positive experience of the Annual Security Review Conference, in future, we propose holding high-level meetings under the auspices of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We suggest holding such meetings twice a year: one in Vienna, and the second in one of the OSCE participating States.

In addition, I should like to draw your attention to the need for broader use of the forms and methods of preventive diplomacy in addressing specific security problems.

Currently, the Organization has the Conflict Prevention Centre. We respect its activities. However, we believe that preventive measures should not be limited to preventing conflicts.

It is our deep conviction that the main principle of preventive action is to eliminate the root causes of conflicts that ultimately create a threat to security. Work in this area requires more activity in specific regions and participating States.

Given this, and taking into account the need for what might be called localizing the preventive activities of our Organization, I propose that the possibility of creating centres for preventive diplomacy in certain regions within the OSCE area should be explored under the Helsinki+40 process.

In summary, I believe that the issues of security and confidence-building measures and the creation of a durable political and legal environment for the development of relations based on a high level of confidence between participating States are now becoming particularly relevant. And this, in turn, confirms the need to develop new strategies in the field of peace-building, based on the realities of the modern world, and designed for the long term.

Turkmenistan, drawing on its positive experience of neutrality, will be ready to play an active part in such activities in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

In pursuing an active foreign policy, within the OSCE, Turkmenistan attaches great importance to sustainable development, the addressing of which requires the co-ordinated work of all participating States on a systematic basis.

At the moment, with the global financial and economic system going through a difficult period, the OSCE faces difficult tasks associated with anticipating and managing economic challenges.

I believe that today, there is a particular need for a radical improvement of the activities of the Organization in the economic dimension.

It seems that here, too, we should start by improving the legal framework for the activities of the Organization. In this regard, we consider it appropriate within the Helsinki+40 process to propose considering the development of an OSCE economic concept.

Naturally, along with this, it will be necessary to analyse the possibility of developing multilateral co-operation within the framework of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

In particular, in our opinion, we could explore approaches to the formation of structures responsible for co-ordinating efforts in sectors like energy, production, transport and trade. For example, we could talk about setting up a council for sustainable energy, whose purview could include energy security, energy conservation and energy efficiency. It would also be useful, in our view, to consider establishing a commission on transport policy that would handle issues related to the effective operation of transport and transit corridors in the OSCE area.

We believe that this kind of change in the activities of our Organization will contribute to the expansion of multilateral economic co-operation among participating States, which, in turn, is an integral component of ensuring security.

Identifying new approaches to resolving economic issues has a direct relationship with the improvement of our joint activities in the environmental dimension. And here, it seems prudent to seek and introduce modern solutions designed for the long term. Taking into account the fact that today, environmental issues require special attention in terms of more systematic consideration, we would suggest that within the Helsinki+40 process consideration be given to the idea of preparing an OSCE comprehensive environmental programme. This approach will, in our opinion, in conjunction with the resolution of security, economic and humanitarian issues, make it possible to elaborate on the Organization's priorities in the field of environmental protection. Furthermore, the aforementioned programme could serve as a good basis for the development of projects for the protection and rational use of mineral, land and water resources in OSCE participating States. It is very important that priorities and projects in the environmental dimension be built on the basis of mutual respect and consideration for the interests of all of the Organization's participating States.

Further, in order to create an effective mechanism for environmental protection, we believe it appropriate to consider the possibility of establishing an OSCE centre for modern environmental technologies, whose activities would be aimed at the practical application of innovative solutions and co-ordinating our joint efforts on environmental issues.

Distinguished colleagues,

The human dimension has always been and remains one of the main areas addressed by the OSCE. The key to its effectiveness at present and in the future is greater mutual understanding between the participating States.

At the last meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the delegation of Turkmenistan stressed that all of us profess common values based on the ideals of peace, humanity and justice. Their practical implementation largely depends on the Organization's careful and mutually respectful approach to the history, traditions and mentality of the peoples in each of its participating States.

At the same time, our international commitments in the human dimension underscore the necessity of developing standards and guidelines drawn up within the OSCE in the national legal systems and law enforcement practices of our States. Here, an important factor is the consistent implementation of international legal norms at the national level, based on the historical and modern realities of each OSCE participating State. Effective ways to combine common efforts in the human dimension are regular meetings, exchanges of views and experiences on issues of further development of the democratic foundations of government and public life, human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, we believe that the Helsinki+40 process provides us with a good opportunity to develop the substantive aspect of multilateral activities in the humanitarian sector, improving formats for interaction between participating States and OSCE institutions.

In this regard we propose considering the possibility of developing a long-term OSCE action platform in the human dimension.

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that Turkmenistan is open to broad partnership in all areas of international activities.

Our country will continue to devote all of its efforts to promoting the principles of international law and the ideals of humanity, justice, tolerance and mutual respect as determinants of modern relations between States.

Turkmenistan is prepared to continue constructive and fruitful co-operation with all of the OSCE participating States, the Swiss Chairmanship, and the OSCE Secretariat and institutions in order to achieve these worthy goals.

Thank you for your attention.