



## STATEMENT BY TURKEY

**2014 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
Working Session 7 – Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including equality of  
opportunity for women and men and the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for  
the Promotion of Gender Equality  
Warsaw, 25 September 2014**

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Women make vital contributions to every conceivable aspect of societal life, and Turkey is fully committed to the goals of improving the living standards and rights of women, ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and strengthening their status in society. We therefore attach great importance to the work being done in these areas in various international fora, including the OSCE. We believe increased action is necessary, particularly in such areas as preventing violence against women, promoting political awareness and economic empowerment.

Violence against women, which will be addressed in more detail during tomorrow's sessions, continues to be a formidable obstacle to the realization of gender equality. In keeping with our policy of zero tolerance for violence against women, Turkey was the first country to sign and to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Subsequently our parliament adopted a new law in 2012 which defines and tackles domestic violence, transposing the provisions of the Convention into our national legislation.

Madam Moderator,

The year 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. By applying our comprehensive security approach to gender equality, the Action Plan calls for the implementation of our relevant commitments across all three dimensions of security and places our Organization at the forefront of the international efforts aimed at increasing women's participation in all walks of life. In this context, the Gender Review Conference held in July presented us with a valuable opportunity to discuss ways of further strengthening the OSCE's toolbox in this regard. Let me take this opportunity to also express our support for the Addendum to the Gender Action Plan proposed by the Swiss Chairmanship.

We cannot deny, however, that the OSCE can do more, especially when we bear in mind that the United Nations framework continues to evolve. This, in fact, is precisely the reasoning behind the draft OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security co-sponsored by Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey. We strongly believe that we need to empower

women in all phases of the conflict cycle. We continue to hope that the broad support of participating States will soon translate itself to an Action Plan adopted by all.

We should not forget that not one among the 57 participating States can boast of a perfect record when it comes to the promotion of women's rights. We must all make progress in empowering women. In order to do so, we must equip our Organization with strengthened tools to more effectively support our national efforts.

Thank you.