



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
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**2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
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Thank you Madam Moderator.

While women make vital contributions to every conceivable aspect of societal life, Turkey is 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.

In keeping with our policy of zero tolerance for violence against women, Turkey was the first country to sign and to ratify the “Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, also known as the Istanbul Convention. Subsequently our parliament adopted a new law last year on “Protection of the Family and Elimination of Violence Against Women”, which transposed the provisions of the Convention into our national legislation. In addition, our “National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence Against Women” was revised for the years 2012-2016. This Action Plan contains targets such as the implementation of legislative measures, promoting awareness-raising activities, empowering women in the economy, ensuring social participation, as well as the improvement of preventive services, treatment and rehabilitation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to refer to the draft Ministerial Council decision on the OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Turkey is co-sponsoring this decision together with Austria, Finland and Kazakhstan. The protection of the rights of women in armed conflicts and full participation of women in all conflict prevention, peace-building, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction processes, including prevention of sexual violence in armed conflicts, are some of the main areas where the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions needs to be strengthened. The OSCE’s comprehensive and cooperative approach to security constitutes the basis of the philosophy behind our endeavors in this regard.

As participating States we must all make more progress in empowering women. We believe that international organizations can provide a great deal of incentive and support to national efforts in this context. In particular, the OSCE, a regional security organization with tangible tools at its disposal, should make its contribution.

Thank you.