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The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and has the honour to submit Turkey's response to the Questionnaire on the "Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security" for 2012..

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the CPC the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 May 2012

-Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE
-Conflict Prevention Centre

Vienna

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON
POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

ENGLISH only

Section I: Inter-State elements

1.1. To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub-regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Turkey is party to most of the international conventions drafted under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as well as Council of Europe (CoE) pertaining to the fight against terrorism.

These conventions are listed below;

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (14 September 1963),
2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (16 December 1970),
3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation (23 September 197),
4. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents (14 December 1973),
5. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (26 March 1980),
6. International Convention for the Taking of Hostages (17 December 1979),
7. Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (24 February 1988),
8. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (10 March 1988),
9. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (10 March 1988),
10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (01 March 1991),
11. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (15 December 1997),
12. International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism (09 December 1999),
13. European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (27 January 1977),
14. Protocol Amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (15 May 2003),
15. CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (16 May 2005),
16. CoE Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure, and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (16 May 2005)¹ .
17. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (14 September 2005)²

¹ Turkey signed the agreement and the ratification process is underway.

² Internal ratification process completed.

Coast Guard Command has signed an agreement on cooperation for border security with coastal states (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine) of the Black Sea. Pursuant to this agreement, the parties will prevent trafficking of narcotic drugs and their derivatives, ammunition, explosives, poisonous and radioactive substances, oil smuggling, unlawful migration. This agreement will further enhance relations between parties and will be conducive for the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which is crucial in the fight against terrorism. This agreement is still on the agenda of Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA).

Furthermore, the exchange of information via secure internet environment between the Black Sea coastal states which are instrumental to prevent unlawful migration and enhance fight against organized crime, has been achieved. Establishing such a similar system with other neighboring States, including Greece, is aimed.

Moreover, as to be applied in the Black Sea region, several bilateral agreements with Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, Russian Federation, Bulgaria and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have been signed. An agreement with Greece for cooperation in fight against terrorism, organized crime, smuggling of narcotic drugs and unlawful migration has been signed as well.

Besides, there are more than 800 legal texts signed bilaterally by the Ministry of Interior with almost 90 countries in the field of security cooperation, combating terrorism and organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances. Financial Crimes Investigation Board has also concluded numerous MoU's with its counterparts on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism.

1.2. What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?

Pursuant to Article 90 of the Constitution, duly ratified international agreements are equal to the statutes. According to the Law No: 244 and depending on their topics and features, international agreements are either ratified by the TGNA via a law or endorsed by a decision made by the Council of Ministers (CoM). Domestic regulations concerning international agreements are;

(1) Antiterrorism Act (Law No: 3713),

(2) The Law and its Directive for Compensation of Damages Arising from Terrorism and Struggling against Terrorism (Law No: 5233),

(3) Directive on Employment of Relatives and Family Members of Those Who Have Fallen Victim to Terrorist Activities or Those Who Were Injured, and Employment of Veterans who do not Have the Ability to Work,

(4) Directive on Employment of Handicapped, Criminals who Executed their Punishment and Victims of Terrorism,

(5) The Law for the Prevention of Laundering of Proceeds of Crimes (Law No: 5549),

(6) The Directive for the Prevention of Laundering of Proceeds of Crimes and Financing of Terrorism,

(7) Directive for Investigation of the Crimes of Laundering,

(8) Turkish Criminal Code (Law No: 5237),

(9) Turkish Criminal Procedural Code (Law No:5271).

1.3. What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Terrorism is a crime and in this regard, the primary task pursuant to its eradication is vested in law enforcement. Jurisdiction and limits pertaining to law enforcement have been designated in the law on Jurisdiction and Tasks of Police Forces (Law No: 2559) and in the Law on Organisation, Jurisdiction and Tasks of Gendarmerie (Law No:2803). Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) is employed in combatting terrorism in case the Local Governor so requests pursuant to Article 11/D of the Law for the Governance of Urban Areas (Law No: 5442). The place and duration is specified by the Local Governor.

Security forces that have been tasked with the establishment and preservation of public order (TAF, Gendarmerie, Coast Guard and Police) undertake this mission by conducting operations towards establishing internal security within the framework of rules and principles specified by both international agreements and domestic regulations.

Pursuant to the Law on Rural Provinces (Law No: 442), temporary village guards have also been locally established for the protection of the life, security and properties of populations living in villages and those militia that contribute to the security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Security forces are deployed in accordance with the principles of proportionality and necessity when undertaking tasks concerning the fight against terrorism.

Coast Guard Command which was founded by the Law No: 2692 functions as a law enforcement agency for protecting and securing all of our seas and enforcing the laws on the seas. All tasks and responsibilities given to the law enforcement by present regulations are carried out by this Command.

Coast Guard Command is also tasked with providing escort to foreign war ships traversing Turkish Straits and visiting Turkish ports during the time of their passage and stay; together with providing escort and protection to vessels shipping dangerous, chemical and poisonous material including LPG and LNG.

1.4. Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining *inter alia* to:

- Financing of terrorism,
- Border controls,
- Travel document security,
- Container and supply chain security,
- Security of radioactive sources,
- Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes,
- Legal co-operation including extradition,
- Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations.

Since we have listed under bullet 1.1 the international conventions and agreements that Turkey is a party, we will not discuss them here again. However, it is useful to reiterate the fact that the

export and import of the materials that are covered by the Law No:5201 on the Control of Industrial Enterprises Producing Vehicles and Equipment of War and Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Material are subject to the official permission of the Ministry of National Defense within the knowledge of Turkish General Staff (TGS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to provide protection against terrorism and enhance the struggle against it.

In addition to this, Coast Guard conducts intensive efforts in the Aegean Sea for the prevention of unlawful migration. Investigations carried out in this respect show that the terrorist organisations entice the individuals living in the states where they are active, with promises of assisting them in employment once they move into European Countries; in return for monetary fees including those coming from charities provided to refugees by international organisations. These constitute one of the main means of financing terrorism.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1. Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

TAF send troops abroad arising from international agreements that Turkey is a party to (for example NATO Agreement or UNSC resolutions). Pursuant to Article 92 of the Constitution, TGNA has the power to decide to send TAF elements abroad, other than in those cases where international agreements that Turkey is a party to so require. The latter constitutes the exception to the general rule.

Apart from the Constitution, Article 129 and 130 of the Rules of Procedure of the TGNA, and Article 8 of the Law of War and Warfare, the Council of Ministers (CoM), after soliciting the view of TGS, is also authorized on the matter to send TAF abroad, pursuant to international agreements that Turkey has ratified.

The Law No: 5442 mentions the term "border operations". In Article 11/D of this Law, it is specified that local governors may ask for assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or General Command of Gendarmerie or border troops of Land Forces Command, in cases where they conclude that it is not possible to cope with the ongoing threat with regular security forces. Under such circumstances, local governors are called upon to do this by the fastest means available by getting assistance from the nearest and most available land, air or naval forces. In cases, where the incidence takes place in border cities or provinces next to them and where the perpetrators have taken shelter or benefit from safe havens in the territory of the neighboring states, after a request made by the Governor through TGS channels and upon the Government's permission and the consent of the neighboring states in whose territory the terrorists are located, a limited border operation may be carried out by using land, air and naval forces that are proportional to coping with the threat in question.

As regards to TAF elements currently abroad;

(1) A Frigate to NATO Standing Naval Maritime Group (SNMG-2), (also takes part in Operation Ocean Shield)

- (2) A Mine Hunting Ship to Standing NATO Mine Counter Measures Group-2 (SNMCMG-2),
- (3) A Frigate and a Corvette to Operation Active Endeavor,
- (4) A Frigate to Combined Task Force -151.
- (5) A Frigate or a Corvette or two Patrol Boats; together with the Engineer Construction company deployed to Lebanon for Establishment and Maintenance of peace in the region, within the framework of UNIFIL,
- (6) A Maneuver Company with supporting units of 377 personnel to KFOR (Kosovo),
- (7) Two Maneuver Companies with 291 personnel to ALTHEA (Bosnia-Herzegovina),
- (8) Miscellaneous teams for training, advising and assisting in Afghanistan. (Within this context, Turkey has taken over the lead nation responsibility of Regional Command Capital on 1st November 2009, until November 2012 with 1.646 personnel within current Area of Responsibility (AoR). With regard to provide assistance to Afghanistan, in addition to Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Vardak, we established the second Turkish PRT on 21 July 2010 in Sheberghan in regional Command North.)

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct.

3.1. Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence - and security - building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Changes that have occurred in the OSCE area since 2007 have brought about a new political and security environment. Challenges that have emerged from this new environment must be dealt with in order to establish greater security, stability and prosperity. In doing so, Turkey is committed to the underlying principles of the Euro-Atlantic security namely, indivisibility of security, cooperative security and comprehensive security.

Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation constitute an integral part of Turkish foreign and security policy. Turkey is party to all major international and regional agreements and initiatives in these fields and actively contributes to their implementation and promotion.

Turkey regards the OSCE as an important instrument to enhance security through openness, transparency, dialogue and cooperation among its participating States. The OSCE has a particular role in the consolidation of the stability of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space due to its set of norms, principles, commitments and mechanisms relating to the politico-military, human and economic and environmental dimensions.

Turkey is a state party to all arms control and CSBM arrangements which have been negotiated within the broader context of the OSCE, namely the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), the Treaty on Open Skies (OS) and Vienna Document 2011 (VD). These arrangements are the major components of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian conventional security architecture built upon the principles of indivisibility of security as well as cooperative and comprehensive security.

The document on "Confidence and Security Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea" is an important step towards establishing a functioning CSBM regime in the Black

Sea. The implementation of this document bolsters confidence among the Black Sea littoral states and thus peace, security and stability in the region.

Turkey continues to support the implementation of Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accord by providing personnel for Inspection/Escort Teams.

Turkey values the activities of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC), which helps foster a climate of dialogue among the nations in the Balkans on issues of common concern and interest as well as providing opportunities for joint trainings including in the field of arms control and CSBMs.

Turkey is a party to the Ottawa Convention, aimed at preventing the use, production, stockpiling, transfer of Anti-Personnel Land Mines (APLM) and ensuring their destruction, since 01 March 2004. Turkey has destroyed all its stockpiles of APLMs and continues efforts to fulfill other treaty related commitments.

3.2. Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence - and security - building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.

Turkey fulfills its commitments stemming from the arms control, disarmament and CSBM agreements mentioned in paragraph 3.1 in good faith as well as in accordance with the general principles of international law, including the principle of reciprocity. By doing so, Turkey, in cooperation with other parties, contributes to creating a politico-military environment conducive to enhancing security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space.

In practical terms, Turkey fully abides by the numerical limitations set by the CFE Treaty regime, shares its military data with and accepts inspections from all non-defaulting parties in line with the provisions of the CFE Treaty regime and the Vienna Document. Furthermore, Turkey is one of the few state parties to the Treaty on Open Skies which operates its own national platform while conducting aerial observation flights.

Turkey is an active participant to the relevant multilateral processes and initiatives which aim at improving the implementation of the existing agreements as well as modernizing them.

Turkey is also a party to regional security cooperation mechanisms such as RACVIAC and "Confidence and Security Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea" and plays an active role in promoting peace and stability in the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Black Sea basin.

In conformity with the Maritime Traffic Regulations for the Turkish Straits, all vessels carrying weapons and ammunition and intending to pass through Turkish Straits are requested to provide "end user certificates" in SP-1 reports in order to determine whether the shipment is legal and compatible with relevant international obligations. The same practice also applies for air transportation. As indicated in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) of Turkey, all cargo flights, carrying dangerous goods are requested to provide "end user certificates" in order to obtain overflight and/or landing/takeoff permissions in the Turkish airspace.

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1. What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

Pursuant to the Constitution, defense expenditure is designated by budget statutes enacted annually. CoM prepares the draft budget statute and submits it to the TGNA. Planning of expenditure and allotments are prepared in line with the Constitution, budget statute and pertinent regulations concerning supplies, by the Ministry of Defense in the light of proposals of the TGS.

The principles pertaining to the deployment and representation of TAF have been specified in the Constitution. Commander-in-Chief is an inseparable part of TGNA's spiritual personality and represented by the President. Chief of Staff is appointed by the President and responsible to the Prime Minister with respect to his/her duties. CoM is responsible for maintaining national security preparation of TAF for defense of the Country. Nevertheless, decisions concerning war, sending elements of TAF abroad and welcoming foreign troops on Turkish territory belong to the TGNA.

The authority for budgeting, supply activities, defense industry, scientific surveys, military justice, social services, building and mapping, together with enlisting and displacement pertaining to measures necessary to minimize damage and loss, planning and providing civil defense are vested in the Ministry of Defense (MoD). Ministry of Internal Affairs coordinates civil defense issues with Turkish General Staff (TGS).

TAF comprises land, naval and air force components. General Command of Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Command operate as law enforcement agencies under the Ministry of Internal Affairs in peace time. However, in war time they fall under the authority of the Land Forces Command and Navy respectively. The Chief of Staff has the authority to command and control the TAF and is responsible for ensuring effective conduct of military operations together with providing effective wartime preparedness of TAF. Principles pertaining to personnel, intelligence, operations, organisation, training, education and logistics of TAF are designated by the Chief of Staff.

The power to engage in commitments for upcoming years concerning defense expenditure within the Strategic Goals Plan of TGS approved by the CoM in consideration of annual economic indicators is vested in the Ministry of Defense (MoD) or Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), as relevant.

Allocations and allotments that Strategic Goals Plan of TAF require, take place in annual budgets of Ministry of Defense, General Command of Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Command with respect to their topics. Annual budget statutes are enacted by the TGNA and approved by the President.

1.2. How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

Turkey is a party to the UN Charter and supports preservation and maintenance of international peace and stability which was framed by UN Charter, in particular, Article 2(4) of the Charter defining prohibition of unlawful use of force and Article 51 of the Charter defining self-defense. Turkey's loyalty to these principles constitutes the most important guarantee for its neighbors.

2. Existing structures and process

2.1. What are constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

TAF is under effective, democratic and political control of the TGNA and CoM, within the framework of the Constitution. TAF's powers, tasks, responsibilities and limitations designated by law is guarantor of democratic control of the TAF.

Jurisdictional relations between MoD and TGS have been designated by a statute. Defense expenditures of TAF and MoD have been approved by the TGNA. TGNA has the power and discretion of making necessary reductions and establishing supervision over the defense budget proposed by CoM, while it approves the defense budget.

TAF functions under effective control of the Prime Minister, CoM, the President and TGNA in the performance of its mission which takes place according to statutes designated by the limits of democratic legitimacy. In this regard, military tasks and missions have been directed and conducted pursuant to national security policies of the State designated by the CoM.

Furthermore Governors who are the representatives of the State, of the Government and of all the Ministries in the localities where they serve and who are the heads of the administrative mechanisms in their respective cities, are responsible for the establishment, conduct and supervision of governance. Governors are also the superiors of all law enforcement organisations and they have the power to inspect law enforcement agencies.

The conditions for limiting fundamental rights and freedoms have been specified in Article 13 of the Constitution. Pursuant to this article, fundamental rights and freedoms can only be confined in a way that does not prejudice their substance, with respect to reasons specified in relevant articles of the Constitution and only by law. These limitations cannot be contrary to the spirit and wording of the Constitution, to the necessities of democratic structure of the society and to the secular order of the republic as well as to the principle of proportionality. These conditions equally apply to all tasks performed by military, semi-military police, security forces and intelligence services. That is, the conditions set forth in the abovementioned article also constitute the limits of the powers of the security forces.

In this regard, actions and decisions of security forces;

- Must depend on a law,
- Must depend on the conditions specified in the relevant article of the Constitution,

- Must be compatible with the spirit and the wording of the Constitution,
- Must not prejudice the substance of the fundamental rights and freedoms,
- Must not contravene the secularist republic and,
- Must not be contrary to the principle of proportionality,

2.2. How is the fulfillment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

Pursuant to Article 125 of the Constitution, all actions and decisions of the administration are open to judicial review and the jurisdictions of administrative branches have been designated by law. In this regard, those government employees who do not act in compliance with the limits specified by law can be subject to administrative and civil actions. Judicial oversight of the administration and the liability of government employees with respect to damages and offences that have arisen due to their personal negligence constitute some of the basic tenets of the system.

2.3. What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

Armed forces, security forces and temporary village guards and their services are carried out within the confines of the law and in full compliance with the Constitution. In this regard, TAF and the Government act in coordination. Since, pursuant to Article 92 of the Constitution, the decision to send elements of TAF abroad and to welcome foreign military forces into the country rests solely on a decision to be made by TGNA, nobody can arbitrarily or relying on his own discretion decide to use armed forces.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1. What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Rules and procedures for enlisting has been specified in the Law on Military Service (Law No:1111) and in the Law on Reserve Officers and Reserve Military Employees (Law No: 1076) in accordance with Article 72 of the Constitution. Nevertheless, the rules and procedures for absolving military service in exchange for financial contribution or other form of compensation and absolving military service in exchange for working in other governmental agencies are designated by BoM (Board of Ministers).

Recruitment activities of TAF are conducted in compliance with objective criteria and everyone with the necessary qualifications specified by law and regulations equal opportunity to serve. Recruitment is carried out based on the principle of equality and is open to free competition. All recruitment activities are conducted transparently with all necessary information duly announced to the public. Judicial review is possible for all personnel acquisition activities.

There is no waiver in the Turkish domestic law for conscientious objection.

Any military personnel (including privates and conscripts) who think that their rights or interest pertaining to either military service or private affairs have been prejudiced have the right to file a complaint or application to their commanders beginning from their immediate superior, with respect to Articles 25-26 of the Law on Internal Service of TAF (Law No:211) or file a case in Court of law.

3.2. What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

TAF has no immunity above the law. All regulations valid for other institutions are valid for TAF. Every male Turkish citizen is under obligation of compulsory military service. However, pursuant to Article 10 of the Law No:1111, those who are not physically or mentally fit for military service are exempted from this obligation if documented by a health report provided by a competent military hospital.

Another exemption specified in the same article is for the brothers of those who have died and for both brothers and sons of martyrs who fell victim to terrorism during their military service.

Those categories of citizens are not enlisted unless they declare that they voluntarily want to be enlisted.

Turkish citizens who have gained Turkish citizenship by way of migration and who have enlisted or accomplished their military service in the state that they have migrated from, are also exempted from military service.

Turkish Military Service Code (Law No: 1111) permits students to complete their high education (in the universities or institutes for L.L.M. or Ph.D. programs), before they are conscripted provided that they preserve their student status and are not older than 35.

All other male Turkish citizens are equal before the law with respect to performance of military service whose duration is specified by the same Law.

3.3. What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

It is ensured by statutes for military personnel to seek their rights in order to have an effective remedy either through administrative or judicial means. Right to petition, right to information and right to effective remedy are guaranteed by the Constitution and military personnel have the same opportunities in exercise of these rights with non-military citizens. Any crimes perpetrated in the military are investigated without requiring a complaint by the plaintiff or victim. The commanders and the superiors are responsible for the enactment of the relevant statutes in this regard.

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law.

4.1. How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through training programmes and regulations?

Leader personnel are trained on human rights and law of armed conflict (LOAC), during their education period through programs in specified schools and centers and via special courses and training programs once they begin their official duties. These topics are covered in detail at miscellaneous courses for unit commanders and in particular, at training programs towards international operations (peace keeping, peace support operations etc.).

International conventions in the field of international humanitarian law and LOAC oblige the states parties to train their military personnel who are responsible for the application of these conventions. For this reason, both as a result of these obligations and to perform the tasks specified primarily in the Constitution and other statutes. Training is provided to TAF personnel on

LOAC in the schools and centers inside the country or by seminars, conferences, courses and official visits that are carried out either domestically or abroad.

4.2. What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

Article 38 of the Constitution stipulates that "nobody can be sanctioned due to an action which was not specified as an offense in the time of commission of that offense, and nobody will be sanctioned with a graver punishment than the one specified for that offense in the statute; however, exceptions may be brought for internal functioning and structure of the armed forces". This applies to all members of the TAF without any exception.

The fact that military personnel will be responsible in front of civil and penal law due to any unlawful actions that they have committed, is taught to military personnel by real-time applications that are held beginning from early military schools and then continued during their service periods, via personnel development programs.

In Article 125 of the Constitution it is adjudicated that "all actions and decisions of administration is exposed to judicial review and administration has to compensate the damages arising from its conduct". Pursuant to this regulation, all government employees including military personnel are under the obligation of compensating the damages that they caused.

According to Article 90 of the Constitution stipulating that "duly ratified international agreements are equal to statutes", all government employees including military personnel are obliged to comply with international agreements that Turkey is a party to.

Furthermore, for government employees who commit one of the offences listed in the Turkish Criminal Code (Law No: 5237), the Code contains a general aggravating condition for them.

Likewise, TAF gives crucial importance to the training of LOAC. The objective, in this regard is to train the military personnel down to private level who will possibly engage with the enemy, and to provide them with the ability to develop a reflex in applying these rules. Moreover, military personnel is trained in a way to understand that they must also move in accordance with "*jus ad bellum*" rules that arise from the agreements that Turkey has ratified and that otherwise, they will be personally responsible before both international and domestic law.

4.3. How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

Abovementioned rights and freedoms are ensured in the Constitution. Discrimination has been defined as an offense in the Turkish Criminal Code (Law No:5237). All necessary training is provided in order to ensure that no discrimination takes place within TAF. Similarly, Turkish citizens of different religions are allowed to practice the obligations of their religions and they are entitled to have sufficient time off during their religious days.

In the introduction of the Constitution a general framework of the governmental agencies including TAF has been drawn regarding their duties and responsibilities by stipulating that "Nation's decision is absolute, sovereignty belongs to Turkish Nation without any exception and no

organ or person that was empowered to exercise its power on behalf of the Turkish Nation, can deviate from the legal order which was outlined by liberal democracy and its qualifications that was specified in the Constitution; that the principle of separation of powers does not mean any superiority among the state organs but purports a collaboration between them; that superiority solely belongs to the Constitution and Statutes”.

In Article 10 of the Constitution, it is emphasized that all are equal before the law and have equal rights, regardless of their language, race, color, gender, political conviction, philosophic belief, religion, denomination and other similar reasons; and that all governmental agencies including TAF are under the obligation of acting in accordance with the principle of equality before the law.

The task given to TAF is specified in Article 35 of the Law on Internal Service of TAF (Law No: 211). Pursuant to this law, the mission of TAF is to protect and watch over the Turkish territory and the Turkish Republic that was established by the Constitution.

In this regard, there is no scope for any elements to exist within or outside the hierarchical chain of TAF, who are not accountable or under control and who cannot be inspected by Constitution or other legal means.

4.4. What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?

Fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution are also valid for military personnel. Principle of equality that is one of the fundamental rights specified in the Constitution are also enshrined in the activities of TAF and all activities of TAF are carried out accordingly. Discrimination is an offense defined and punished in the Turkish Criminal Code (Law No:5237). Furthermore, all kinds of political activities were banned for TAF personnel by the Law No: 211 and any conduct against this prohibition has been defined as an offense under Turkish Military Criminal Code (Law No: 1632). Those personnel who violate these rules are prosecuted.

TAF also gives utmost importance to political impartiality. In this regard, TAF has a model role and status. All necessary administrative and legal measures required to ensure political impartiality of TAF are taken.

Pursuant to Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 11 of the Law on Political Parties (Law No: 2820) "Judges, prosecutors, members of high judicial organs including High Court of Accounts, officials of government agencies that fall under the status of "government employee", even other governmental officials that do not fall under the category "worker" with respect to the job that they perform, members of TAF, and students at the time of pre-high education cannot be a member of a political party". Pursuant to Article 43 of the Law No: 211, "TAF is outside and above of all kinds of political influence and opinions”. For this reason, it is forbidden for the members of TAF to be a member of political parties and societies, to engage in political demonstrations and meetings, to give speeches, and to write memorandums. As a result of these regulations, members of TAF have remained politically impartial and neutral.

Members of TAF can in no way engage in political activities, except in cases where they enjoy

their Constitutional rights regarding right to vote in general elections and right to information.

4.5. How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

Pursuant to Article 90 of the Constitution "duly ratified international agreements are equal to the statutes. They cannot be a subject of a case of non-compliance with the Constitution in front of the Constitutional Court. In case there happens a conflict between duly ratified international agreements concerning fundamental rights and freedoms and the statutes, the provisions of international agreements will prevail." When Turkey ratifies an international agreement, that international agreement becomes a part of Turkish domestic law at a level equal to the statutes. For this reason, ratified international agreements are valid across domestic law and their non-compliance with the Constitution cannot be asserted.

Members of TAF are under obligation of complying with the provisions of international agreements. This obligation also stems from the fact that the defense policy and doctrine must be in accordance with international law.

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

1.1. How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

Every citizen has the right to ask and gather information he/she needs from the relevant institutions on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in accordance with the Law on Right to Information (Law No: 4982).

1.2. What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

Same as explained in paragraph 1.1 above.

1.3. How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

Turkish citizens and foreigners who have a permanent residence in Turkey, together with foreign legal persons, provided that the information they require is in relation to their field of activity and with respect to the principle of reciprocity, can file an application to the military agencies within the framework outlined by the Law on Right to Information (Law No: 4982).

Much useful information has already been and is being continually posted on the web sites belonging to military agencies.

2. Contact Information

2.1. Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Directorate for OSCE, Arms Control and Disarmament.

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