



**STATEMENT BY TURKEY**  
**2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**  
**Working Session 5 – Tolerance and non-discrimination I**  
**Warsaw, 23 September 2015**

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Having aligned with the statement made by the European Union, we would also like to make some comments in our national capacity.

Mindful of the fact that women make vital contributions to every conceivable aspect of societal life, Turkey is fully committed to improving the living standards and the rights of women, to ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and to further strengthening their status in society. We attach great significance 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.

Regrettably, violence against women 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 actively contributed to the elaboration of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence – the Istanbul Convention – and was the first country to sign and to ratify it. 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. In this connection we attach utmost importance to the effective implementation of the Ministerial Council Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, which was adopted last year in Basel.

Madam Moderator,

The OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality has proved to be a critical tool for the application of a gender-sensitive perspective to all OSCE activities. We regret, however, that we were unable to adopt the Draft Addendum to the Action Plan in Basel last

year. The Addendum will provide us with a valuable update of our toolbox and help enhance the implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions in the OSCE area. Turkey is committed to continue working for the Draft Addendum's adoption this year as well.

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations in the women, peace and security issue, we would like to reemphasize that UN Security Council Resolution no. 2122 encourages regional organizations to implement UNSCR no. 1325 and welcomes their efforts. We believe there is certainly room for improvement in this field in the OSCE. The OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security co-sponsored by Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey aims to serve precisely this purpose. We continue to hope that the broad support of participating States will soon translate itself into a decision adopted by all. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants at the joint side event we organized with the delegations of Finland, Austria, Lichtenstein and Iceland on the implementation of Resolution 1325 during today's lunch break.

Before concluding, allow me to also underline the importance of the inclusion of women in all phases of the conflict cycle, particularly in mediation processes. We welcomed the occasions last year when gender-responsive mediation was extensively discussed, including at the meetings of the OSCE Group of Friends of Mediation. We hope to see this practice continue. We also welcome the Guidance Note on "Enhancing Gender-Responsive Mediation" prepared by the Gender Section, which contains valuable insights for mediators and professionals engaged in mediation processes.

In sum, none of us 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 continue working to equip our Organization with strengthened tools to more effectively support our national efforts.

Thank you.

