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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,
AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM**

**IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES, H.E. HALIL AKINCI.**

**894th PERMANENT COUNCIL
15 December 2011**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ambassador Akinci to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive and informative presentation.

Ambassador Akinci's appearance before the Council, in his capacity as the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, provides us an opportunity to be acquainted with a relatively young regional intergovernmental organization based on the centuries-old common values of the Turkic world.

Let me express satisfaction in observing that its member states and the geography coincide with certain part of the OSCE. The Council's purpose of contributing to peace and security in Eurasia also renders today's exchange of views pertinent for the OSCE and represents a departure point for complementarity.

The Turkic Council is we believe, pertinent as it is a product of regional ownership of the common objectives pursued by the OSCE and it tries to make a contribution in this respect. It helps to create trust and confidence, that is dear to us all. In this respect, it deserves our support. Trying to create mutual trust and confidence, at a time where we are in dire need of it, can only be beneficial for the OSCE.

Indeed, as the main purposes and tasks of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States set forth in the Nakhchivan Agreement correspond to and are in line with the OSCE norms and principles in the service of attaining comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security. The synergy arising from the Cooperation Council promises to increase the contribution of its Member States to the goals of the OSCE.

The Council has already embarked upon practical cooperation in areas that has been alluded to by the Secretary General, many of which overlap with the activities of the OSCE. We understand that the Turkic Council will also be active in Afghanistan and we commend it for that effort.

We believe therefore that cooperation between the two organizations would be complementary and mutually reinforcing in dealing with the security challenges of our time. Improving contact and practical cooperation based on the 1999 Platform for Cooperative Security would not only serve to the spirit of the OSCE that all participating States are guided by, but also provide a unique forum of dialogue, an instrument that OSCE is meant for.

Therefore, we join Ambassador Akıncı's call for a mutually beneficial increased exchange of information to explore the possibilities of partnership between the Turkic Council and the OSCE in the future.

Finally, let me express my satisfaction that the Turkic Council Secretariat is led by such an able person, previously head of the first OSCE mission in Georgia. This provides an added safeguard that OSCE values will be cherished by the Turkic Council.

Let me thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing such a dialogue with this organisation. I hope we could continue it on a regular basis. We wish the Secretary General our best in his future endeavours.

Thank you.