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SPEAKING NOTES

Session III: Early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, including the use of relevant OSCE tools

- Unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area continue to be a source of increasing concern. We welcome and support the efforts of the Finnish Chairmanship with a view to finding political and lasting solution to the conflicts. Its strong field operations as well as various early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms provide the OSCE necessary means to maintain and preserve the stability in the regions of conflict. OSCE, as a facilitator of dialogue and as a forum for confidence building, has a significant role to play to this end.

-Protracted conflicts in the South Caucasus and in Moldova, pose serious obstacles to achieve our common goals in the OSCE area, namely stability, security, democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and socio-economic development. We join others in encouraging the OSCE and other international organizations, such as the EU, NATO and the Council of Europe, to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination in relation to their activities towards promoting a secure and stable environment, particularly in the zone of conflicts.

-We would like to reiterate Turkey's firm commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. We will continue to encourage all parties to the conflicts to establish constructive dialogue which will ultimately pave the way for reaching a common understanding towards peaceful settlement of their political disagreements.

-In this respect, we welcome the continuous efforts of Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group in assisting the parties to the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in their search for a political solution on the basis of international norms and principles, in

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particular the inviolability of the internationally recognized borders as well as relevant UN Security Council and OSCE decisions.

-We remain extremely concerned over the recent escalation of tension within the conflicts of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as in relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation. Turkey supports international efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian and South Ossetian conflicts, in particular those of the UN as well as the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, regarding Abkhazia; and of the OSCE regarding South Ossetia. We also call on all parties concerned to refrain from actions that could exacerbate the existing situation. It was a welcoming development that both Georgia and the Russian Federation recently have chosen to explore the ways of dialogue and to defuse the tension through the consultation mechanisms set out in Vienna Document of 1999. In our view, the use of relevant OSCE tools and mechanisms proved to be fruitful in terms of exchanging views on issues of common concern.

-In relation to the recent developments in Transnistria, we welcome the engagement of the parties in the implementation of confidence-building measures intended to bring the people on both sides of the Dniester River closer. The extensive efforts of Ambassador Heikki Talvitie, Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, deserve particular appreciation. We hope that this positive trend will facilitate the resumption of the negotiation process in the 5+2 format.

-Securing peace and stability in the Balkans is one of Turkey's foreign policy priorities. Turkey believes that prevailing rule of law, human rights, democracy and pluralistic values in Kosovo and particularly creating mutual confidence with her neighbors are essential for the future of the region. We believe that the OSCE should continue to play its critical role in supporting a peaceful, democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo.