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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,
AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ
IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE MINSK
GROUP AND THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN IN
OFFICE ON THE CONFLICT DEALTY WITH BY THE OSCE MINSK
CONFERENCE**

**738TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
6 NOVEMBER 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

We too would like to welcome the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference to the Permanent Council. We thank them for their reports.

Turkey has continuously encouraged the sides to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to work towards a peaceful settlement through dialogue. As a neighbour of the parties to the conflict, we are as keen as they are that a solution is devised and formalized early on. We share that the current political setting offers the opportunity to achieve that end.

That the parties have redoubled their efforts to seize this opportunity, gives us hope that a mutually acceptable solution based on the binding principles of international law, including that of territorial integrity, could be attained.

Beyond our being part of the Minsk Group, which continues to provide the only forum and the political framework for the pursuit of the peace process, we see the resolution of the conflict as a matter that closely concerns our national interest.

Such a resolution will eliminate a major obstacle in the way of broadening the scope of our initiatives to consolidate stability and to cooperate with a view to generating prosperity at a regional scale.

In addition to our active diplomacy which seeks to engage all capitals in the region, without exception, our latest initiative, eliciting the close collaboration of the countries of the region, who are participating States of the OSCE, that is designed to establish a Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform, would correspond to this very goal. The pronouncements of support by the countries of the region and beyond gives us further incentive for its active pursuit.

As to the meeting of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation in Moscow, partners will have noted that a press statement to mark this important event has been issued by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In it we have welcomed the meeting and the joint declaration by the Presidents. We have noted with satisfaction the agreement reached by the Presidents to reinvigorate the negotiation process, including at the highest level, as well as the joint expression of adherence to the principles of international law in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In the statement, it was also stressed that the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform initiative would serve the purpose of creating an environment conducive to confidence building as pronounced in the Moscow declaration. The lack of this vital ingredient of confidence and the necessity to restore it have already been underlined by the Ambassador of Armenia

Like the rest of the Minsk Group countries, we shall continue to work with the Co-Chairmen, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office and the countries concerned in order to fulfil our role in the process and thus legitimately share the success of a satisfactory outcome of our common endeavours.

Thank you.