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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

749th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation

19 March 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to thank the Ukrainian delegation for updating us on the politico-military developments in Ukraine, particularly in view of the ongoing Vienna Document Chapter III visit to Ukraine and the so-called “referendum” held in Crimea. I would also like to thank the Hungarian delegation for providing us information on the second report of the observation team in Ukraine that covers the period of 11-16 March 2014.

The information provided by Ukraine regarding illegal military activities taking place in its territory continues to be a source of grave concern for us. We remain in solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine at this difficult time and strongly emphasize the need for a solution on the basis of Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, within the framework of democratic principles, and in accordance with international law and agreements.

In this context, we believe in the continued importance of making full use of politico-military instruments at our disposal, not least the relevant provisions of the Vienna Document. We therefore decided to send a new civilian observer to Ukraine in response to the extended invitation by this country under Vienna Document Chapter III, paragraph 18. We still expect the observation mission to have unhindered access to all regions of Ukraine, including Crimea.

Having made mention of Crimea, I wish to also briefly touch upon the so-called “referendum” held there on 16th of March. Turkey considers this referendum both unlawful and illegitimate. The result of the referendum and all ensuing *de facto* situations to emerge from it will not bear any legal validity for Turkey and will not be recognized.

We are concerned that the developments that take place in Ukraine and especially in Crimea also have negative effects on security and stability of the Black Sea region. In this framework, we draw attention once again to the fact that creating *faits accomplis* by military means is extremely inimical, and we call on the parties to come together with a view to finding a political solution to the problem on the basis of the above-mentioned principles. Turkey will continue to do its utmost to contribute to such an outcome.

Thank you.

