



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

***IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY RICCARDO MIGLIORI
PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY***

**925TH PERMANENT COUNCIL
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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming President Migliori to the Permanent Council and wish him the best of success in the important responsibility that he has assumed.

At the outset, let me state that we appreciate the crucial role played by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in reflecting the needs and aspirations of our citizens.

We believe that inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation on OSCE related issues can help contributing to resolving prevailing regional protracted conflicts which our organization is mandated to resolve. Indeed, the Assembly could bring its contributions along the rules of procedure and previous decisions, along the OSCE formats and OSCE principles. Parliamentarians can help building bridges in helping finding durable and comprehensive solutions to these conflicts. After all, when these conflicts are resolved, not only the parties to these conflicts, but all countries of the respective regions would benefit.

We value cooperation and interaction between the inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental dimensions of our Organization.

In this vein, the sessions where Ambassadors in Vienna can interact with Parliamentarians is also a unique opportunity of exchanging views. This year during the Winter Session, as Chair of the Security Committee, I was privileged to address the OSCE –PA General Committee on Political Affairs and Security. During the debate, we had the chance to exchange views on the contribution of the OSCE to the fight against transnational threats.

On the other hand, we highly value the Assembly's role for providing a forum for parliamentary diplomacy in the second dimension as well. *As a matter of fact, the OSCE PA's fall meetings that just took place in Tirana on 5-7 October, 2012 focused inter alia on protecting multicultural societies, the financial crisis and the media's role in promoting good governance.*

The third dimension is undoubtedly an area where Parliamentarians can deploy their expertise in the area of election monitoring. The synergy and good cooperation between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and ODHIR affects the credibility of this organisation. Therefore; we encourage a smooth cooperation based on the relevant documents.

It is one of our responsibilities to make sure that worrying trends relating to the human dimension do not remain unaddressed. The Irish Chairmanship's intention to table a draft decision on combating xenophobia and discrimination will be a good case in point within the OSCE's efforts to tackle these phenomena. To follow up the words of some of my colleagues who spoke before me, although we welcome the resolution on *Addressing Racism and Xenophobia Affecting People of African Descent in the OSCE Region* adopted at this year's Annual Session in Monaco, it is evident that increased attention by OSCE PA to combating intolerance and discrimination against the Muslim communities in the OSCE area could better reflect the concerns of our peoples.

Waves of change ushered in by the Arab Spring have spread across the Middle East and North Africa and reached an irreversible stage in transforming the whole area in a way that will have an impact on the flow of history.

There is no single road map applicable to all societies and geographies, which ensures political reforms and transformation. However, peoples' ownership of the process and the aspirations is the main source that the change could be built upon, wherever it takes place.

Fuelled by legitimate aspirations of peoples for democracy, rule of law and human rights, the process may prove painstaking, as would normally be expected from any demanding changes; and in case peoples' calls are disregarded, the process may lead to instability and even an

armed conflict, as we now see it unfortunately in Syria. We are pleased that concerns raised by the international community, including the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, were also addressed by the OSCE PA in its *Resolution on the Development of the Turkish-Syrian Border* adopted at the Fall Meeting held in Tirana earlier this month.

Finally, my country is looking forward to hosting the Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul for providing a venue for a productive continuation of the work of this important body.

In conclusion, I would like to express my best wishes for President Migliori in his new assignment and looking forward to continuing our cooperation with OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you.