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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Visit of Turkish President Gul to Armenia

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 11, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes President Gul's decision to accept President Sargsyan's invitation to Yerevan. We commend both Presidents for showing courage to take steps that will strengthen peace and prosperity throughout the region.

We hope this historic meeting will help build momentum toward full normalization of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia and an opening of economic ties.

We hope that as this positive momentum strengthens relations between Turkey and Armenia, we will also see accelerated progress elsewhere in the region, notably toward a just and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which must proceed from the principle of respect for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and evolve into a political compromise that incorporates other principles of international law and diplomatic practice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.