



**STATEMENT BY TURKEY**  
**2016 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**  
**Opening Plenary Session**  
**Warsaw, 19 September 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Allow me to begin by expressing our thanks and appreciation to you, Director Link, and to your Office for your efforts in organizing this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. We are also grateful to our hosts, the Polish authorities, for their traditional generous hospitality.

As has been stressed many times today, the human dimension is an integral part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. It reflects the key role of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms for our common security and stability. Indeed, following this July's insidious attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government, the President and the constitutional order in Turkey, we are more keenly aware than ever of the importance of the human dimension. We attend this year's HDIM with the pride that comes from witnessing how the democratic resolve of the Turkish people thwarted the terrorist coup attempt of 15 July. Our people's united stance testifies to our nation's ability to uphold its democratic values. While doing so we shall also strive ceaselessly to further our human dimension commitments. It goes without saying that we expect the full solidarity and support of our fellow participating States as we continue to fight the enemies of democracy with democracy, taking all necessary measures in order to completely eliminate this severe threat posed against the survival of our nation and state.

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Participants,

The HDIM, as the most important event in our human dimension calendar, provides an invaluable opportunity to review the implementation of our commitments across the entire OSCE region. The HDIM's great value also stems from the indispensable participation of civil society alongside the representatives of the participating States, giving all stakeholders the opportunity to voice their concerns and make recommendations.

As in the previous two years, this current meeting is being held against the backdrop of the ongoing crisis in and around Ukraine. Regrettably, various human rights assessment missions as well as our own OSCE institutions continue to ascertain numerous and grave human rights violations in eastern Ukraine and in illegally occupied Crimea. This only underlines the importance of soberly assessing the implementation of our human dimension commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret that no human dimension deliverables could be adopted at last year's Ministerial Council. For our part, we are continuing our customary constructive engagement with the aim of achieving better results this year. While upholding our commitments in such crucial areas as human rights, fundamental freedoms, democratization and the rule of law, we attach particular importance to the vital field of tolerance and non-discrimination. We welcome the emphasis which the German Chairmanship is putting on this area, which certainly requires our Organization's urgent and increased attention. In this context we particularly wish to emphasize the extremely worrying phenomenon of Islamophobia, which is being exacerbated in many European participating States by the repercussions of the refugee and migration crisis.

We must all do more to strengthen the implementation of our commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination if we are to have a realistic chance of eradicating the rising threat. Within this framework it is vital not to approach the human dimension selectively or by setting up artificial hierarchies. As with the three dimensions themselves, all human dimension areas are also fundamentally and equally important. Human rights and fundamental freedoms and tolerance and non-discrimination, being two sides of the same coin, are a prominent example in this regard. They must be given equal consideration and effort. In this connection we welcome the Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination to be held in October in Berlin, and hope that those discussions, along with our deliberations here at the HDIM, will contribute to the deliverables we expect to be adopted this year in Hamburg on enhancing efforts to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims as well as Christians.


We look forward to fruitful and constructive discussions in all of the HDIM's working sessions, as well as in the various side events. We wish the participants of the HDIM every success during the next two weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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Schubertring 14/4,1010 Vienna *tel* + 43-1-523 38 05 *fax* + 43-1-523 38 07  
*e-mail*: [tr-delegation.osce@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:tr-delegation.osce@mfa.gov.tr)

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