



**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,
AMBASSADOR TACAN ILDEM ON ELECTIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN
898TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
19 JANUARY 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the peaceful and orderly conduct of the early parliamentary elections throughout the country in Kazakhstan that were held on 15 January. The Kazakh authorities should be commended for the well administration of these elections.

The high turnout in the elections shows the maturity and willingness of the Kazakh people to participate in the democratic process in their country. We commend the timely invitation extended to international organizations and countries in line with international commitments. Among others, the representatives of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States observed the proceedings in the region of Çimkent.

The new shape of the Meclis, the lower Chamber of the Parliament, with a multi-party representation undoubtedly constitutes the most important outcome of these elections. In that respect, the elections and its outcome should be recognized as a landmark for Kazakhstan in its path towards enhancement of its democracy.

We all know that building a genuine pluralistic democratic system in a country is a long-term and painstaking process which requires sustained efforts and grass-root work. Already with its experience in this field, Kazakhstan has made an additional significant stride towards this end. The constructive engagement of the international community will surely help Kazakhstan to overcome the remaining shortcomings in this process.

Turkey, as a close partner of Kazakhstan, will continue to encourage and support the Kazakh authorities to make further progress in the reforms in the path of political pluralism and democratization.

Thank you.