



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

**ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE**

**920<sup>th</sup> PERMANENT COUNCIL  
16 July 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

We remember the atrocities acknowledged as genocide by the International Court of Justice, perpetrated 17 years ago in the city of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina which claimed lives of more than 8000 Bosniaks with great sorrow.

Our Deputy Prime Minister attended the remembrance ceremony held last week, to mark the 17th anniversary of this genocide.

We once again strongly curse this heinous crime against humanity, deeply share the grief of the families of the victims and condemn any attempts to minimize or deny the genocide which took place in Srebrenica.

We firmly believe that the international community will draw the necessary lessons from what happened in Srebrenica, will exert every effort and take the necessary measures to prevent the repetition of similar crimes which occurred as an outcome of extreme nationalism and ethnic hatred.

Turkey believes that the way towards establishing permanent peace and stability in the Balkans goes through ceasing the hostilities of the past and building together a more prosperous and a bright future based on shared values and a joint vision.

Thank you.