



PC.DEL/402/14

10 April 2014

ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY**

Regarding the Presidential Elections in Afghanistan

**994th Permanent Council
10 April 2014**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Afghanistan on the presidential and provincial council elections held last Saturday. Thus, the terrorist attacks perpetrated to disrupt the elections during recent weeks, including on election day, were not allowed to reach their goal. This important step for the first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan's history constitutes an important milestone in the country's transition process. It is also a significant step towards the construction of a peaceful and prosperous future for the Afghan nation.

The participation rate estimated at 60% in the initial reports and the successful manner in which the election were conducted are indicative that the capacity building efforts with regard to Afghan public institutions have indeed reached an impressive level. Widespread participation of women in the elections is also a fact that we particularly welcome.

It is also pleasing to see the OSCE participating states' continued interest in and support for Afghanistan's transition process. We also appreciate the work carried out by the ODIHR team. Afghanistan is directly linked to the security and stability of our region. As such it needs to remain high on the OSCE's agenda.

In conclusion, we congratulate the State and the people of Afghanistan on this important occasion. Our solidarity with brotherly Afghanistan in their quest for greater security, stability and prosperity shall persist. We will continue to work closely also with the new Afghan administration to this end.

Thank you.

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