



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

**In response to Ms. Navi Pillay,
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

(1006th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 3 July 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming High Commissioner Pillay to the Permanent Council. We thank her for her informative and thought-provoking presentation.

Having his presence in our midst, I also take this opportunity to express our heartfelt congratulations to Director Link upon the assumption of his new important duties and wish him our best.

Turkey highly appreciates Ms. Pillay's tireless efforts to protect and promote human rights worldwide during her six years at the helm of the United Nations' human rights system. Her outspokenness and dedication to her role as global human rights champion has set OHCHR's standards very high indeed. As Ms. Pillay stated before the UN Human Rights Council last month, the stature of the Office "as an authoritative voice on human rights is attributable to its integrity and its insistence on freedom from political influence". Ms. Pillay has greatly contributed to her Office's stature, and we take this opportunity to congratulate her at the end of her second tenure for her exceptional work as High Commissioner.

As a founding member of the United Nations and a party to all core international human rights instruments, Turkey attaches great importance to its cooperation with OHCHR. The promotion and protection of human rights are among our Government's priority policy objectives. In this regard Turkey has been going through a comprehensive reform process in recent years with a view to further strengthening democracy, consolidating the rule of law and ensuring respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. We continue to take advantage of OHCHR's expertise within the framework of this ongoing reform process. Turkey also regularly contributes to OHCHR's budget.



Mr. Chairperson,

The human dimension lies at the core of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. As such, it is only natural that our Organization develops and maintains close ties with the United Nations in the field of human rights. We therefore welcome and wholeheartedly support the joint declaration signed on June 12th in Geneva between Ambassador Lenarcic, former Director of ODIHR, and Ms. Pillay on enhancing cooperation between ODIHR and OHCHR. The joint declaration formalizes and expands the two institutions' existing fruitful cooperation, covering a broad range of activities. We are convinced that this deepened cooperation will greatly contribute to the institutional support being provided to us as participating States in our endeavor to fully implement our shared human dimension commitments.

In concluding, we thank Ms. Pillay once again for her determined stance in combating human rights violations across the globe, and for her valuable contributions to strengthening the cooperation in this area between the UN and the OSCE. We wish her all our best in her future endeavors.

Thank you.

