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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

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

**18th OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
Closing Session
7 December 2011**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly congratulating Lithuania for its tireless efforts in steering our Organization in a very skillful manner during 2011. If we succeeded in achieving the deliverables of the Vilnius Ministerial, an important part of the credit goes to the able leadership role of the Chairmanship.

We are also of the opinion that the decisions that have been adopted move our agenda forward in following up the results of the Astana Summit Meeting.

In this context, we are happy to see a progress in the politico-military dimension, on transnational threats, as well as in the economic and environmental dimension. We supported from the beginning a package of decisions with the ownership of the Chairmanship in the human dimension. We regret that this package is not among the deliverables of this Ministerial. Taking this opportunity, I would like to repeat what my Minister emphasized in his statement yesterday, that we should avoid applying selective and hierarchical approaches with a focus on certain issues as priorities while considering other very important concerns as secondary issues. We will continue to support efforts in treating all dimensions on an equal footing as enshrined in the founding OSCE documents. Within each dimension, we need to seek the necessary balance as well.

We are gratified with the fact that we could be able to agree on decisions on Partners for Cooperation and on our engagement with Afghanistan. We consider the decision in the conflict cycle to be one of the most important deliverables of Vilnius, since efforts to prevent and settle conflicts are in the heart of the activities of our Organization. Therefore, the political value of this decision has to be judged in that context.

We strongly support Mongolia's aspirations to join the OSCE. We would have preferred taking a decision on granting Mongolia the status of participating State at this time. Nevertheless, we are confident that the Irish Chairmanship will do its utmost to move this issue to fruition.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have to focus on the filled part of the half empty glass. While doing so, we should also be able to reflect on the reasons for failure of our efforts in adopting some of the important decisions. It requires us to have an honest soul-searching with a genuine self-criticism and draw lessons for the future on how we can better employ a consensus building working methodology to provide means for effective engagement and political ownership of all the participating States. I am sure that in Vienna the Permanent Council will have ample opportunity to follow up the deliberations and results of the Vilnius Ministerial.

In concluding, once again let me repeat our thanks and appreciation to the good job done by our Lithuanian friends and best of luck and success to the incoming Irish Chairmanship.

I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.