



FSC.DEL/44/14
12 March 2014

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

748th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation

12 March 2014

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Ukraine for raising the issue of the observation mission invited to his country under Vienna Document Chapter III, Paragraph 18 to dispel concerns on ongoing unusual military activities. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Hungarian delegation for their statement on the interim report prepared by this observation mission.

Turkey has provided one civilian representative to the ongoing observation mission in Ukraine. We are both disappointed and concerned that the representatives of the mission were denied the possibility to carry out their duties in Crimea, as foreseen by Ukraine. Unhindered access of the observation mission to Crimea would have contributed to diffuse tensions and help de-escalate the crisis. The report of the mission, which is now shared with all participating States, increases our concerns, as it indicates increasing military activities on the ground without the consent of the host country.

We commend Ukraine for making full use of the politico-military instruments at our disposal, including the Document on Confidence-and-Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, to resolve the current crisis through peaceful means. We also reiterate our appeal to the Russian Federation to enter into a meaningful dialogue and constructive engagement with Ukraine to address Ukraine's concerns.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to underscore once again the importance my country attaches to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Ukraine as well as the full implementation of the Vienna Document in its area of application, in order to increase military transparency, stability and predictability.

Thank you.