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DELEGATION OF TURKMENISTAN TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT
by the Head of Delegation of Turkmenistan
at 14th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
Brussels, 4 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to express gratitude to our hosts for a wonderful organization of this meeting and in general to the Belgium Chairmanship of the OSCE which has successfully steered the work of our Organization.

This year Turkmenistan has celebrated 15th anniversary of its independence, and almost 15 years Turkmenistan has been a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In 1991 our State has not only chosen a path of independence but also its vision of the future by voluntarily taking commitments in the framework of our Organization. Huge transformations and achievements that have been reached in a short but critically important period have made a direct contribution to the achievement of these goals.

From the beginning Turkmenistan has chosen a unique path of development that provides for security, stability and sustainable and consistent development in all areas. The achievements of 15 years of independence are a concrete proof of the correctness of this path. The neutral status of Turkmenistan does not only guarantee the security of the country but also makes substantial contribution to the positive tendencies of development of our region. Strictly pursued policy of neutrality has brought our country the authority of reliable and predictable partner by unswervingly fulfilling taken upon itself international obligations.

Stable high economic growth allows the State to provide for decent conditions of life for the population. High per capita income, food security, huge social support, provision free-of-charge of utilities, stable income of people, security of life and possibility to realize one's spiritual and intellectual potential comprise important components of fulfilling by Turkmenistan of its commitments in human dimension.

This, naturally, is not the limit of our aspirations in the area of broadening rights and freedoms of citizens. Taking into account current situation and matured conditions the President of Turkmenistan in 2005 has come forward with initiative on further

democratization of the society aimed at deepening democratic processes in the Turkmen society, improving national election system. In accordance with that already this year elections to local, regional and city people's councils have taken place on an open, democratic and alternative basis. In 2007 elections to provincial people's councils and in 2008 regular elections to Parliament shall take place.

Having adopted "Statement on support of initiatives of international organizations on fighting against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction" in 2005 and having signed the "Treaty on the establishment of nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia" in 2006 Turkmenistan in practice proves its firm adherence to the process of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Our country pays constant attention to the effective fight against terrorism. In this connection we see an enormous area of activity for our Organization in terms of promoting cooperation of all States including on specific issues of cooperation in apprehension and extradition of organizers and perpetrators of terrorist acts as well as their accomplices. Global Anti-terrorist Strategy adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations should become a practical basis for enhancing interaction in this area.

In this context it is worth to mention unacceptability of participation in the events of the OSCE of criminals that committed terrorist acts and those who committed any criminal offense. We believe it is time to make corrections in the process of registration and participation in the OSCE events to prevent abuse by these individuals of OSCE procedures.

We have stated numerous in our Organization that the main responsibility for security lies on the shoulders of the State. In the process of building of a new State we have faced various challenges and difficulties and at times had to make difficult choices. The neutral status of the State is one of the main reasons for security of the country that creates favorable conditions for comprehensive development of both State and its citizens. Building its relations on principles of equality and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries and international organizations our State in practice shows its commitment to peace, cooperation, non-interference in internal relations of States, respect for their sovereignty. Broad range of commitments within OSCE framework not only determines specific tasks before it's every participating State but also allows them to have diverse ways to implement them.

Our Organization has a potential of positive influence on international processes inside the OSCE area by assistance through its field missions and programs of assistance in various areas. At the same time, one should not consider that OSCE is the only instrument and means of resolving various challenges facing its participating States. OSCE is important, and at the same time just one of the organizations in the system of international relations. It's obvious that our Organization requires reform. We see this reform not in terms of this Organization dealing with everything at the same time. It's necessary to find its *niche* in the world system of Organizations. Attempts to find relevance in every sphere lead to spreading thin the power and resources of the Organizations. There is a tendency not only find relevance in new areas but also to include new commitments for participating States coming from the OSCE institutions. We believe that the system of commitments that we have is broad, comprehensive and specified enough so that not to invent new ones.

Noting uniqueness of three-dimensional approach to the issue of security, we should not attach to one of the dimension excessive significance to the detriment of other two. Excessive pushing of one dimension, however important it may be, without regard to circumstances on the ground could by itself be a threat to security. Cross-

cutting nature of three dimensions does not mean automatic application of all of them at the same time. The practice proves that the commitments in the third dimension are successfully implemented only in the conditions of stability and security and relevant economic basis. The responsibility for the decisions lies only with the State and only State having full picture of the situation can and must determine ways and timeframe of its development within the framework of its international obligations. Our Organization in pursuing its goal should comprehensively evaluate realities and factors determining processes in its participating States and not begin to understand the complexities and challenges facing participating States only after the difficult events.

Mr. Chairman,

Many useful decisions are proposed for adoption at this meeting. In multiplicity of adopted decisions we should not forget that the name of our Organization already contains the goal of our Organization and the way to achieve it. Turkmenistan is ready to make every contribution to international security through equal and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.