

MC.DEL/77/08  
5 December 2008

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF TURKMENISTAN, AT THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF  
THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Helsinki, 4 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegation,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my gratitude to the organizers of this meeting, first and foremost to the Finnish Chairmanship and also the OSCE Secretariat for creating a good atmosphere for our work.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is currently experiencing one of the most important periods in the history of its development, as witnessed by the events taking place in the world today.

In view of the diversity and extent of the problems requiring an appropriate response from the OSCE today, comprehensive approaches to their resolution have to be devised. Today more than ever before, specific measures are needed to deal with such issues as security, overcoming the difficult financial and economic situation in the world, the consequences of climate change and the associated environmental processes, strengthening the rule of law and further developing democratic bases. All of this falls within the scope of the OSCE's principal areas of activity.

I should like to emphasize that Turkmenistan supports broad-based and constructive co-operation with all interested parties within our Organization and other international bodies.

In this context, a primary objective in our view is our work together to further strengthen the system of security both within the OSCE area and in the global dimension.

In that connection, in view of the urgent need to find effective ways of developing the international security system under the new circumstances, we should observe the highest principles of equality of and mutual respect for the parties involved and endeavour to minimize the influence of the various stereotypes on the objective assessment and positive resolution of problems as they arise.

In this regard, we believe it most relevant to consider the new aspects of ensuring security. One of the most important of these is energy security as an element of global security.

Energy security is a multidimensional phenomenon, bringing together a number of closely interlinked political, financial, environmental and technical factors, and calls for extensive international co-operation. The experience of our country in this kind of co-operation has shown that only if interests are harmonized and if there is mutually beneficial and equitable partnership is it possible to ensure the energy security of different countries and regions. It is for this reason that Turkmenistan proposed a draft resolution at the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly on the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable economic development and international co-operation. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the countries that spoke in favour of supporting this important document.

In our view, it would be useful to consider the problem of energy security as part of the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation and also at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

The ultimate aim of improving the mechanisms for collaboration within the OSCE is to create universal conditions to enable each participating State of our Organization to achieve its full potential. Positive co-operation of this type should help to exclude confrontation and, on the contrary, should help us to find a unified approach to our activities, based on a balance of interests and ensuring reciprocal rights.

This is how Turkmenistan approaches the discussion and agreement of measures aimed solving urgent problems in the Central Asian and Caspian Sea regions. These regions are currently in the international limelight. This is largely due to the powerful energy resource potential of our countries, their profitable geo-economic position and the great opportunities for the development of transport corridors.

We believe that within the OSCE it will become a matter of urgency to give comprehensive consideration to the Caspian and Aral Sea, the water and energy issue in Central Asia and the establishment of new transport routes linking Asia with Europe. In co-operation with other international organizations, the OSCE could make its contribution to the development of the framework under international law for collaboration in these important regions.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The relevance of our current meeting also lies in the fact that it is taking place at a time when the international community is working to find effective ways of dealing with the consequences of the financial and economic crisis. Essentially, this stagnation is largely associated with a number of political, economic and energy-related factors. Their resolution now and subsequent prevention and the elimination of the causes giving rise to such difficult situations depend to a great extent on our concerted efforts and on the elaboration of programmes for co-operation. Our most important task in terms of ensuring international

security is to overcome economic instability. For this reason, the OSCE participating States and other international organizations and bodies, in particular the United Nations and the European Union, must be involved in this process.

In conclusion, I should like once again to stress that security and co-operation will be achieved through our joint co-ordinated actions designed ultimately to strengthen the entire system of international relations, in which the ideals of peace and the principles and values of civilized development should hold sway.

Thank you for your attention.