

**STATEMENT BY H.E. ABDULLAH GÜL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AT THE OSCE ASTANA SUMMIT**

**(ASTANA, 02.12.2010)**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As hosts to the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul 11 years ago, it is indeed a great pleasure and distinct privilege to take part in this distinguished forum under the Kazakh Chairmanship. This OSCE Summit has been long in coming and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate President Nazarbayev for his visionary leadership in making it a reality.

This Summit equally marks the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Copenhagen Document - landmark instruments in the history of the OSCE. Together with these and other milestone documents which have charted the course of our Organization through sea changes in the evolution of the OSCE space, we have every reason to be proud of our achievements. Our legacy continues to guide and inspire our work.

However, in acknowledging past achievements and progress in creating this unique community of shared values and interests based upon the concepts of indivisible, cooperative and comprehensive security, it behooves us to equally take stock of our shortcomings.

May I nevertheless submit, that while cognizant of these shortcomings, this OSCE Summit is not one in which to dwell upon them. Rather this Summit is a unique opportunity to reiterate and demonstrate our common will and resolve to overcome our differences and work together in solidarity, based on our OSCE commitments, to create a qualitatively enhanced cooperative security environment – a security community - with the Corfu process at its center as a catalyst in our endeavours. If we prove capable of exhibiting this resolve through our political declaration and giving guidance to our future work at the end of our deliberations here in Astana, this unique Summit in the annals of OSCE history will have served its purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

At the Istanbul Summit in 1999 we reaffirmed the OSCE as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. Despite ongoing efforts, the protracted conflicts remain unresolved, impairing security and stability, hampering economic development and in the process, undermining the OSCE's credibility. It is now incumbent upon us to make this Astana Summit a turning point in the way we address the protracted conflicts, most notably through our resolve to utilize the instruments at our disposal that have lain dormant for far too long and by transforming our commitments into deeds. On its part, Turkey will continue to contribute to the

peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan on the basis of their unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

We are impressed by the great strides the Central Asian States are taking in all spheres, not least in consolidating their economic prosperity and the welfare of their peoples, as evinced by this booming city Astana. The Kazakh Chairmanship is one more example of the resolve of Central Asian States to play a more active role in charting the future course of the OSCE and contributing to shaping the European and Eurasian security environment. Naturally, Central Asia, like other regions, is not immune from the plethora of trans-national, trans-boundary risks, challenges and threats. Nor have the challenges of transformation been fully overcome. The OSCE with its institutions and expertise has much to offer the Central Asian States and can play a distinct role by further contributing to their capacity building efforts through its field missions. In this vein Turkey has supported the deployment of an OSCE Common Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan and has nominated qualified police officers. Beside our national engagement in support of Kyrgyzstan, this is one more indication of our strong solidarity with our Kyrgyz brethren in their hour of need.

Naturally we cannot speak about the security and stability of Central Asia without equally addressing security and stability in Afghanistan - our Asian partner for cooperation. It is encouraging to observe the prevalent political will of OSCE Participating States to further explore options for the OSCE's contribution to stability in Afghanistan, in all dimensions, through projects that do not duplicate ongoing work. Yet Turkey, from the outset, has maintained that the challenges emanating from in and around Afghanistan cannot be adequately addressed unless additional robust regional responses are developed. The trilateral Summit process launched between Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan seeks to respond to this need.

Southeast Europe in its recent tragic past is another region that has greatly benefited from the OSCE's strong engagement, its institutions and capacities, continuing to this day. Kosovo and its peoples continue to require all the support the OSCE can provide, not least through contributing to a constructive dialogue between Belgrade and Prishtina. Reconciliation is the key to the future of the Balkans which can only be attained through democracy, strong and impartial institutions and economic prosperity. OSCE Missions are best placed to helping achieve this end. Taking into account the need for confidence building in the Balkans, Turkey has initiated the establishment of two trilateral consultation mechanisms, namely between Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; and between Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Mr. Chairman,

The advent of a Europe without dividing lines has not diminished the imperatives for addressing interstate security concerns. The OSCE's politico-military acquis, its full implementation and further development continue to be as important today as in the past. In this vein, Turkey supports ongoing efforts to update the Vienna Document in 2011.

Though not a part of the OSCE acquis and as such outside the remit of the Organization, however I should be remiss were I not to also briefly touch upon the developments pertaining to the conventional arms control regime in Europe - the CFE Treaty. Inevitably, the viability of the CFE regime has great bearing on the European security environment. Turkey is encouraged by the ongoing dialogue with a view to restoring the regime through negotiations in 2011. The preservation of the

legally binding regime with all its elements, while modernizing its provisions in order to make it more responsive to present day realities is the basis upon which Turkey will engage in any future negotiations.

Mr Chairman,

Even as we speak, transnational risks and threats are encroaching on our doorstep. Our organization with its broad membership, thematic expertise and concept of comprehensive, cooperative and indivisible security can and must develop further tools and capacities in order to make a long term, lasting impact in combating terrorism, organized crime and all forms of trafficking. Such efforts must go hand in hand with enhancing the OSCE's good governance activities and efforts with special emphasis on combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism. The OSCE must enhance its cooperation with other regional and sub-regional organizations on these issues.

The OSCE's economic and environmental dimension has been the orphan child of this Organization for far too long. It is time to remedy this situation by upgrading the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities to the status of an OSCE institution. The activities of the Coordinator's Office cuts across all three dimensions of the OSCE, with many projects constituting confidence building measures in their own right by bringing communities together and creating economic inter-dependence. Migration is one of the aforementioned cross cutting issues which the OSCE needs to address at all levels. Developing multi-dimensional migration policies which acknowledges the inherent dignity of migrants and their positive contributions to the societies they live in should be the starting point. Energy security equally constitutes an area where the OSCE can bring value added, complementary to international efforts, through providing a platform for broad based political dialogue.

Mr. Chairman,

If anything could be conceived as the distinctive mark of the comprehensive concept of security on our daily lives, this would be the human dimension of the OSCE. The commitments we have voluntarily undertaken therein are more than a precondition for our common security. The dignity of the human being, democracy, rule of law, fundamental rights and freedoms require constant vigilance, protection and improvement. Commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War this year should make us pause to reflect upon the implications of a subjective or selective interpretation of human rights.

Recent trends in the rise of xenophobia, Islamophobia, discrimination, racism, regardless of their motives or purported justifications, call for urgent attention and joint action. Different perceptions about religion and culture driven by hate, invite the risk of divisions and even conflicts among and within our societies. I would encourage all of us gathered here in Astana to take the lead in our respective countries in combating these phenomena actively and by speaking out against all forms of hate speech. As the current chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Turkey will pay particular attention to this topic. In addressing these challenges more effectively, the OSCE needs to enhance its interaction and cooperation with other regional organizations having similar competences.

The culture of cooperative dialogue and spirit of solidarity in addressing common challenges that has long been the hallmark of the OSCE - despite its erosion recently - must be maintained and preserved not only for the inspiration it continues to provide to other parts of the globe and similar multilateral processes, but first and foremost as the basis upon which we have built our interaction with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Cooperation. In this vein we condemn the recent artillery attack by North Korea against the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong and call for full compliance with the terms of the armistice. Here, I should also like to welcome Australia as our most recent Asian Partner. This outreach serves as the best model for partnerships across vast expanses in the service of global security. Turkey believes that the relationship between the OSCE and its Partners for Cooperation needs to transcend the narrower confines of dialogue and become operational.

Mr. Chairman,

In the final analysis, it is not the number of processes, mechanisms or institutions which we create and/or activate within the fold of the OSCE that will prove the enduring relevance and success of the Organization, but the tangible improvements that we are able to bring to the lives of our ordinary citizens.

In closing my remarks, I wish to convey my thanks to you personally President Nazarbayev for your inspiring leadership and through you to your able team under the stewardship of Chairman in Office, Foreign Minister Saudabayev and his representative in Vienna, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, who have steered our Organization so successfully through a most difficult year of profound challenges. I would equally like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank Secretary General Brichambaut and the Secretariat for their strong commitment and contributions to the work of the Organization. We look forward to the early commencement of a transparent election process as the Secretariat prepares for the changing of the guard next year. Turkey has nominated a qualified candidate. I wish to thank those countries who have already pledged their early support to our candidate. Finally, we wish incoming Chairmen Lithuania and Ireland the best of success and in turn pledge our full support to their Chairmanships. We equally congratulate Ukraine on their successful bid for the Chairmanship in 2013.

Thank you.